Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There is a lot of truth in both the opening statement and the

statement of the Ranking Member, but the big picture is that for

all of the pluses and some of the positives occurring in Russia, Russia

is also going backward and is subject to forces that appear to

be beyond the control of the American people. Instead of the United

States responding with a Marshall Plan, it is clear the institutions

of the West have helped facilitate the marshalling of the wealth of

Russia for it to be recycled to the West as stolen social assets.

This country has no choice but to be very, very much alarmed

and very much supportive of the Russian people against the new

institutions of wealth-stealing that have developed. Today is a signal

day in that three exceptionally minor indictments have been

brought in New York, but they are minor indictments with major

implications. The crimes that are suggested in our scope are rather

small, but it can begin to lead to the unwinding of our greater

crimes that are involved in the accumulation of the money that has

been laundered in contrast with the money laundering itself.

In any regard, my own view is that if things are going askew in

our relations with Russia, there is some degree of accountability

within the executive branch, lack of vigilance perhaps in all

branches of the U.S. Government. But the issue is not so much finger-

pointing, but what we do to correct the situation and how we

look to the future. In that regard, I think that the bottom line of

this Congress should be concern for the Russian people, concern for

the rule of law, and to try to develop a system of accountability in

Russia that is based upon help that we can provide in insisting

that our laws are upheld and the kind of corruption we see there

is not brought to our shores.

In any regard, this hearing that the Chairman is bringing forth

is very timely and much appreciated.