Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought Mr.

Lantos might want to give them some time to answer the question.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much and

thank you for holding this hearing today. I think it is a long overdue

account of what has been going on in Russia. Although I agree

with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we should

try to look for solutions, I also think that holding people accountable

for the policies that they have presented to the American people

as something that would work, yet haven’t worked, they should

be held accountable for presenting these policies and instituting

those policies that haven’t worked.

First, let me, before I ask my question, salute my friend, Fritz

Armitage, who has had a long and distinguished career in American

intelligence and in fact, worked with me during the Reagan

White House days. I believe that he made a major contribution to

perhaps the most historic achievement in my lifetime, which was

the disintegration of Communist power in Russia, which was, after

all, this great achievement of the Reagan Administration, this legacy

that I believe has been squandered.

I, unfortunately, believe that when Reagan left office and when

George Bush was entering office, it looked like the world was just

ready to remake and to create these wonderful new opportunities

for all of humankind and especially there in Russia. That legacy

has, unfortunately, as we can hear today and as is clear just from

reading the newspaper, that legacy has been squandered. Hopefully,

it can be recaptured, but I don’t know.

First of all, Mr. Ermarth did answer the question about more

aid, and I do believe, just to take more trucks of money and shovel

it out of the back into Russia certainly would have resulted in the

loss of more money.

But Mr. Ermarth, could you tell us, and in fact both panelists,

before the current administration came to power and we had policies

of the Reagan Administration and policies of the Bush Administration,

were there changes in policy that took place when President

Clinton came into power that has contributed to this; policies

that were changed from what they were before?

With what Mr. Ermarth just pointed out, Mr.

Chairman, we are here to find solutions as well as to fix responsibility;

but as far as I can see, this Administration has a pattern

throughout the world of getting involved in supporting people who

are not necessarily committed to the same values and the same

principles that some of us would like them to be. What you just described—

let me say that I don’t believe that the Russian people

were looking for aid from the United States. I think what they

were looking for when Communism collapsed was honest government

and good leadership. Perhaps one of the solutions to our current

dilemma and the current situation is for the United States to

commit itself to finding honest and good leaders in the Russian

people and get behind them 100 percent, rather than trying to

work more closely with people who just happen to have leverage at

the moment in dealing with them.

Yes, and after that, I have used my time, but

go right ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.