Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think that one concern I have about American policy is that it

gives inadequate consideration to the pride of the Russian people.

Here is a country that a few years ago was one of two superpowers,

and now we are telling them what to do about almost everything.

It seems that this situation is not really analogous to the post-

World War II period where Germany and Japan were occupied and

remade, but maybe has some analogous aspects to the period after

World War I where Germany ceased to be a superpower not because

it completely lost on the battlefield, but because after a long

conflict, its system imploded and it raised the white flag in the first

World War of our century. Perhaps the Cold War was the Third

World War of our century.

It seems as if there is nothing that goes on in Russia about

which we Americans do not have an official and public position.

Now, some of this is understandable. We insist on promoting democracy

around the world, and I think the Russian people and

other peoples respect that, but there is no area about which countries

get more sensitive than their own territorial integrity.

I wonder whether we are rubbing Russia’s nose in it when we decide

to have an opinion on what they should do in Chechnya. Here

you have a part of the Russian Federation which then not only establishes

its quasi-independence, but then wages a war of aggression

on other Russian areas and appears to be somewhat responsible

for terrorism in the Russian capital.

I wonder if you gentlemen could simply comment on whether we

are perhaps planting the seeds for a backlash against America, and

a wave of potential nationalism supported by nuclear weapons, if

not an adequate economy, when we start scolding the Russians for

their policy in Chechnya. Not that it is necessarily good policy, but

simply one that perhaps we shouldn’t have an opinion on.