Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and let me

also commend Chairmen Leach and Smith for calling this very important

hearing on the situation in North Korea, and more specifi-

cally, following up on the humanitarian crisis following the passage

of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

I was a proud sponsor of the bill, and thank both the Chairman

and the Ranking Member Faleomavaega for their work on the issue

over the years. He has been steadfast on issues dealing with Asia

and he is a real addition to this Congress.

The humanitarian nightmare that the people of North Korea

have endured over the years under Dictator Kim Jong-il is to be

condemned. With a series of natural disasters in the mid-nineties,

combined with the defunct economy of the country, life in North

Korea became very, very difficult. According to the World Food Program

(WFP), there are severe food shortages, as we have heard

from my colleagues preceding me, and very strong deteriorating

health situations, unsafe water, and horrible sanitary conditions.

Nearly 70 percent of the population of 23.3 million people are dependent

on food distribution, and no country can continue to survive

with that type of dependency. More WFP figures showed child

malnutrition for children under the age of 7 has improved over the

years, but it is still much too high.

In the latest survey carried out in 2002, 40 percent of children

were stunted in their growth, 20 percent were under weight, and

8 percent were wasted.

The forced repatriation of North Koreans by the Chinese Government

is simply wrong, as we have heard before, and it must stop.

Refugees have a right to flee and to be absorbed at least in temporary

protective status by the host country. China should respect

its obligations under the U.N. Refugee Convention to protect, not

turn away, refugees from North Korea, and must allow the U.N.

High Commission, the High Commission for Refugees, into the

country in order to do the proper evaluation and identification of

refugees.

The region is in such a precarious state as it is believed that

North Korea has one or two crude nuclear bombs and has reprocessed

enough plutonium for more bombs. I think that it is key that

we stay closely engaged and work with the Government of South

Korea, and that we attempt to continue to have negotiations with

North Korea, with the Chinese, Japanese and others in the region

that are involved—and Russia—in the negotiations.

We must work to ensure the protection of refugees who flee their

countries for mere survival, whether they come from North Korea,

Darfur, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Western Sahara

or Haiti. They must be protected by the countries where they seek

refuge. China must do better. However, we too in the United States

must work on our wet foot/dry foot policy that favor Cuban refugees

seeking asylum in the United States to come in, but penalizes

and sends Haitians back to Haiti also then to be put in harm’s

way, and we hope that we can correct that in our own U.S. Government

policy.

So I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for this hearing,

and I look forward to the testimony of the witnesses.

Thank you. Just a question on the FY–2006 budget

and any one of the three of you, or more than one might try to respond

to it.

The budget request did not request funds for the implementation

of the North Korean Human Rights Act, and I wonder if you know

whether this is actually true or not, and if funds were requested

or not, and if not, why not?

And secondly, although you did mention, it was brought out that

2 weeks ago, the 15th of April, the Special Envoy should have been

appointed, and do you think that this is a high priority in the Administration?

And is there anticipated the naming of a Special

Envoy, or are there some problems with the Special Envoy? I wonder

if any of you might want to respond.

Yes.

Okay, just one other question. As we know, the Six-

Party Talks, and I alluded to them before, are off again, on again,

sometimes on. I do not know the current status. But if in fact they

are—and when the talks resume, do you think that those talks, although

it is supposed to be specifically dealing with the potential

of nuclear development and proliferation, but do you think that it

is appropriate, or has the United States in the past raised the

question of human rights and refugee issues during those talks

with the North Korean regime?

Does anyone know whether that seeps in, or would it be appropriate

to put it on the table if and when talks resume?

Great. Thank you. Thank you, I will yield back my

time.

Thank you very much.

The question I have is in regard to North Korea’s ability to—do

you think that they have the ability to produce enough food for

their population? And if there are not, what are some of the systemic

problems? Is it just lack of a program, a policy? Is it lack of

farm equipment? Is it, you know, antiquated processes? Dr.

Noland, or anyone else, if you would like to try that answer.

How does North Korea create foreign exchange anyway?

I know that they are in the weapons business, but how do

they bring in enough income to even purchase fuel or food?

Just one last question, and it is a military question,

and I do not know if you know the answer to it or anyone else may

know. How large is the North Korean military? We hear different

numbers. Is this a real army, a standing army, or is it just a bunch

of people that they have assembled? I mean, they do march well.

But is it a real—what are the numbers? Do you know?

That is very interesting, and I will end my questioning

here, but I note that before the market in the United States

and I guess around the world, but particularly the United States,

just opened up where China had this tremendous export into the

United States. I think the old Chinese military sector was sort of

entrepreneurist too, sort of ran their own little operations, they

may still, but I know that that is not unusual in that area where

they have businesses, a lot of corruption also, of course, in the businesses

and so I really appreciate that information. Thank you very

much.

Very quick question for Dr. Noland. During the sort

of stand-off between the United States and North Korea about the

nuclear and bringing in the other countries, there seemed to be a

division in South Korea as it relates to the United States and the

support of the United States, older people being supportive of, you

know, the liberators or ones that saved South Korea. The younger

people, though, having a sort of, as we find around the world, sort

of a more anti-American philosophy, and I just wonder is that still

going on, and in time, therefore, do you think the South Koreans

will become more anti-United States.?