Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing.

Americans watched with horror as Russian tanks rolled through

Georgian towns and villages. A rise in Georgia, as we all see it, of

power to flaunt international sentiment is certainly potentially

dangerous for international and regional stability.

Our relationship, at the moment, is tense with Russia. Just this

week, the administration withdrew the request for congressional

consideration of the U.S.-Russia Nuclear Agreement, but yet, as I

have heard from some of my colleagues, we must continue to consult

with Russia on matters of international security.

For example, Russia-United States collaboration on the issue of

the Iranian nuclear program is critical. President Bush must maintain

diplomatic leverage with Russia in order to ensure that Iran

does not become nuclear, which would threaten stability, not only

in the Middle East but throughout the world. Iran must understand

that the United States and Russia find that a nuclear Iran

is absolutely unacceptable.

So there, obviously, needs to be a balance. What Russia did was

unacceptable, but I think we also understand that there is a measured

response here that we need to have because Russia will be important

in our dealings with Iran.