Thank you very much. I appreciate you calling this

very important hearing. I certainly agree that I think that there

was a total overreaction on the part of Russia to Georgia. However,

we also have to realize that people look for excuses, and if you give

excuses, then the consequences come.

As we move forward in this world, there are a number of problems

that we have to resolve: Problems with genocide in Darfur;

problems with a growing People’s Republic of China; a growing

problem with Iran. We have a lot of problems to deal with, and I

think diplomatic solutions are going to have to be the answer in

the future as we start to deal with the problems coming. We cannot

send $1 billion every time there is a problem. We cannot send a

military force because we are already overstretched.

So we are going to have to really talk to our allies and ourselves

about a way that we are going to deal with this dangerous world

in the future.

Thank you very much. I think your clock is not right

because you hit the gavel before 5 minutes were up, so I just want

you to take a look at it.

Let me ask you, very quickly, Mr. Secretary, do we have conversations

with our allies, you know, small countries like Georgia

and so forth, about wanting to be supportive but sort of cautioning

them on, you know, getting overly aggressive?

And you did talk to them about that?

And they, evidentiary, did not listen.

Now, you know, a lot of times, we get ourselves in

and problems occur. I was looking back at some old records. When

it appeared that the United States said it was all right for Iraq to

sort of take some islands that Kuwait said belonged to them, and

then, the next thing we knew, Iraq was in Kuwait and said, Well,

the Ambassador, green light, wrong light, you know, and I think,

at that time, Iraq had been friendly to the United States because

of Iran.

How much do these people listen when we have so much at

stake, I mean, you know, the $1 billion coming up? Is there any

way that we could get our allies to be a little more rational to our

friends?

Now, what about the things that we had going with

Russia? They were going to help us on some counterterrorism.

They were looking at doing some reforms, trying to get into the

WTO, and all of that. Are those things off the table now? Do we

break off having normality with Russia?

All right. You know, Russia is trying to get the

Olympics, and, you know, already we are talking about, you know,

maybe we need to have some conversation. Of course, we did not

do much with China, so I do not expect we will do much to stop

Russia.

Do those kinds of things get in the plan, your discussions?

Where do most of the former Warsaw Pact countries

stand? Do they want to delink themselves from Russia, generally

speaking, or come to Europe and the United States?

Just quickly, then, does Russia, then, have this fear

that all of this business is centered against them?

On one hand, we want to be friendly, and then, on

the other hand, we want to contain.

But my last question, since I have 13 seconds left—I do not know

what the chairman has. Senator McCain said, ‘‘I am a Georgian.’’

Could you explain what that means?

Okay. Thank you.

I will not do that.

Thank you very much. You know, the fact that it did

appear as though, when the U.S.S.R. broke up, and, you know,

there was a new Europe, it appeared to me that there were opportunities

to try to perhaps embrace Russia. It seemed, though, that

there began an increased NATO enlargement, you know, later, the

missile shields.

Was there ever, in either one of your opinions, a thought that

there could be normal relations, that Russia, maybe 25 years from

now, could possibly be a big ally like Western Europe was at one

time? Or was there, in your opinion, always a fear that you are just

going to have to contain these Russians; they are just czarist, medieval

people?

Where did we fail, you know? Listening to some of your talk, you

know, it sounds like the sixties with Khrushchev and Kennedy and

batting the heel on the U.N., you know, this war thing is a serious

thing. And I hear all of this really tough talk—‘‘We need to do this,

and let us put the missiles in—’’ I mean, I am not so sure that

Americans want to just let us take on another war. We have got

our hands full, as you know, in Iraq, and then we are looking at

Iran. No one is even talking about the People’s Republic of China.

I mean, you know, we need to reassess this 1890s, 1900s ‘‘U.S.

and the world,’’ and, you know, maybe we should remain strong

and have a common defense and a strong country, but I am not so

sure that the stuff we are talking about is going to fly in the next

20, 30, 40, 50 years. I do not even know how we are going to afford

it, $1 billion for 5 million people. Suppose something happens to a

100-million-people country. Do we give them $50 billion?

Why do you think it changed?

Thank you very much. My time has expired, but I

thought that, with the prosperity in Russia, things would, you

know, improve. I visited Russia in 1967, and you talk about a poor

country. I went down the Don River and the Volga River down

from Rostov all the way to the south for 2 or 3 weeks, and you

would think that, with the new economics, that they would appreciate

the quality of life that it brings. I will yield back the balance

of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, just on that point, if it was supposed

that, and we are saying we do not keep quibbling over who was

first, but if, indeed, you did have an incursion into an area, as it

is alleged Georgia did, what international law says that you stop

an offensive? I mean, what is the signal that you stop?

Mr. Chairman, yes, just a point of personal privilege.

If you could get the administration’s information in regard to

where——

Yes, because, you know——

That is going to be very critical because

I can see it coming from some hunger program in the middle of

Central Africa somewhere.