Mr. Chairman, there is plenty of reason to be

skeptical of Moscow, but our policy can best be regarded as

unthinkingly and reflexively anti-Russian, particularly at a time

when we need Russia’s support on a number of issues, including

the containment of Iran.

With regard to the self-determination of each republic of the Soviet

Union, each republic of Yugoslavia, and with regard to the selfdetermination

of Kosovo, we were for self-determination. But we

oppose self-determination for South Ossetia and Abkhazian—to Moldova.

Some say we would be inconsistent on the issue of self-determination;

we are not. We are consistently anti-Russian again and

again and again. We were not clear with Saakashvili that we would

not support him if he launched major military actions. He launched

those actions. He was successful for a day.

We have ignored the referendum in South Ossetia, which called

overwhelmingly for a split from Georgia.

Finally, the administration tells us that we support democracy in

Georgia while trampling on democracy here in the United States,

particularly in the area of foreign affairs, where they ignore the

statute known as the Iran Sanctions Act, ignore the provisions of

the Hyde Bill regarding India, and now go and make a promise of

$1 billion of American aid without adequately telling the Georgians

that this is dependent on decisions made in Congress and is not a

unilateral decision to be made by the administration.

Finally, if we do provide aid, or whatever aid we do provide, we

need to aid Armenia, which is an innocent victim of a war that it

did not participate in. I yield back.

I thank the chairman.

In addition to the combatants, Armenia has suffered tremendously

as a result of this war in Armenia—totally blameless—does

the administration plan on providing economic aid to Armenia as

part of this package, and, if so, how much?

I thank you for your soccer commentary, but I do

want to interrupt.

The estimate of the Armenian Government is that this conflict

has already damaged its economy to the tune of $680 million. How

does $680 million compare to the administration’s Armenia aid

package request for Fiscal Year 2009?

By a factor of 10 or a factor of 15 or a factor——

How did Georgia believe that military action, including

taking, I believe, for about 1 day, the capital of South

Ossetia, would lead to a positive result? Did they believe that the

United States would provide military assistance or dissuade Russia

from taking military action? And why was communication between

Washington and Tbilisi so poor, and/or why is the President of

Georgia so incredibly deaf that he did not hear us?

How loudly did we yell in the direction of Tbilisi:

Do not take aggressive military action, and if there is a conflict,

you are on your own. You may get your own soldiers back from

Iraq, but you are not going to get any military help from the

United States. We are not going to be able to dissuade Moscow,

and your own capital city may be under Russian guns? How strongly

did we make that argument?

Then why is a friendly, smaller country, like

Georgia, going to get a huge amount from the United States for

damage it suffered by ignoring the loudest and most specific warnings

from the United States?

Mr. Secretary, my time is expiring. I will simply

say that, yes, it is not in our interests to see Georgia crushed. It

is also not in our interests to tell every ally we have out there in

the world that we will hold them harmless and provide them with

massive aid to repair the damage for whatever foolishness they engage

in, no matter how clearly we tell them that their proposed action

is foolish. I yield back.