Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for being here again and

for answering the questions as honestly as you do.

I have an observation, and it may not be correct, but I just really

think that the purpose of such a strong response by Russia was

part of their plan to destabilize a democracy in this area so they

could put their own government somewhat friendlier to them.

My real question is, what would the consequences be if we do not

help Georgia get back on their feet?

Mr. SIRES. How seriously should we take Russia’s efforts now to

extend itself into Cuba? I know that they are doing some maneuvers

with Venezuela, naval maneuvers. So is that just a bluff, or

is that going back to the Cold War days when they were trying to

put weapons in Cuba?

I know what the Russians said about Poland, after

what we did in Poland, but I think it was more intended for countries

like Hungary that are teetering on how close they want to get

to Russia. Is that a fair assessment?

Mr. SIRES. And, finally, I just want to add, I agree with Congressman

Scott, that this is all about energy. I do not know whether

anybody has put it to the Europeans, but I think that they

should have some sort of summit on trying to get away from the

dependency on Russia in the near future because this game is just

going to go on and on.

I do not think that the Russians are finished with Georgia yet.

I think they are going to try everything that they can to destabilize,

and until they succeed in changing the government, they are

not going to stop.

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.