Thank you very much. The recent conflict in Georgia,

and its many repercussions, demonstrates that while the world

has changed greatly since the collapse of the Soviet Union, we are

now in danger of being pulled back into an antiquated and dangerous

Cold War mind-set.

I strongly condemn the brutish actions of Russia, its disregard

for Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, but I also am

perplexed by the recklessness of Georgia’s President, who knew the

Russians were itching for a fight and took the bait.

The United States is now left in the inevitable situation of attempting

to mediate a situation in an area of the world where it

has marginal influence, at a time that it is overextended militarily,

diplomatically, and economically. On an ongoing basis, our bilateral

relations with Russia should be based on realistic assessments of

needs and threats, as well as costs and risks and manpower.

Finally, our policy with Russia must continue to be one of constructive

engagement, not isolation, that ties Russia even closer to

democratic systems of governance and free and open markets.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming. I would like to know how

many United States military advisers were stationed in Georgia

and what was their mission, where are they now, and did they play

any role between Georgia and Russia in this latest incident?

Were there military stationed there in Georgia?

I understand the contingents that are attached to an Embassy. I have been

there. But how many military advisers were in Georgia?

Would you send that to me, please?

And where are these advisers now? Are they still

there? Have they left the country?

We do not really know the foreign policy of this administration.

It changes. No, we do not know it, and it does not

share with us, so that is why I asked these questions.

The United States military has taken the lead in providing relief

to Georgia. To what extent were the NGOs involved in providing

assistance to Georgia?

Okay. Then maybe you can comment on this: There

have been allegations that the United States is secretly re-arming

the Georgian military; allegations that have been consistently denied

by the administration. Can you comment?

What are we doing? What are we doing?

Have you been re-arming Georgia?

No. Have you been re-arming Georgia?

Have we been, prior; have we been, since the conflict,

re-arming Georgia? But before? Okay.

Well, I would like you to give me some of those details

because we do not really know what is being planned. So

much is done in secret in this administration, that is why we hold

these hearings, to hear directly from the Secretary of State’s Office

to get the truth to the matter. We are seekers of truth.

Now, Russia has viewed NATO expansion as a broken promise

and the transformation of an anti-Soviet alliance into an anti-Russian

alliance right up to its borders. Does the United States still

plan to support NATO membership and the action plan to Georgia

and Ukraine, even though Russia is strongly opposed?