Thank you, Madam Chair. I would also like to say

to Dr. Swett and Mrs. Lantos, I would like to particularly acknowledge

Tom Lantos’ fight for Soviet Jewry. I spent last Friday

evening in a synagogue in Moscow, something that would have

been awfully hard to imagine some 20 years ago. And I just wanted

to acknowledge his leadership in that struggle.

Ambassador Sestanovich, I spent much of last week while in

Russia talking about accession to the WTO with various members

of the Russian Government. In particular, I spoke at length with

the Minister of Economic Development, who happens to be here

this week on that issue. And it is clear that WTO membership is

a priority for the Russians and for the United States. But casting

a shadow over this whole process is the Russian occupation of 20

percent of our strategic ally, Georgia. There is a fundamental disagreement

between the United States and Russia, and between

Russia and the rest of the international community for that matter,

on Georgia’s territorial integrity. And any resolution to Georgia’s

wish to have their customs agents on its borders, should accession

be completed, could actually have a significant impact on deciding

where those borders ultimately lie, where they are recognized

internationally. Can you speak to how you see this playing out?

Doesn’t there have to be some resolution, at least

as to these borders issues, in advance of WTO accession?

Dr. Cohen, in the meetings there were some statements

made alluding to the long-term—having to wait to see the

long-term economic viability of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It

wasn’t clear whether that suggestion meant that ultimately if they

weren’t economically viable the Russians might ultimately withdraw,

or if they weren’t economically viable that the Russians

might ultimately try to incorporate them into Russia. Do you have

thoughts on that?

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.