Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to ask any of the

panelists if they care to comment—since I chaired the Western

Hemisphere Subcommittee for a number of years and am now the

ranking member—of Russia’s intent in Latin America. That is

something that is sort of under the radar screen. We know, for instance,

that Iran, sitting down with Hugo Chavez, has tried to infiltrate

a number of places in Latin America.

I am wondering if any of you would care to comment on what you

see as Russia trying to do, because I am a believer that if the

United States doesn’t engage the way we should, then we have

Russia and China and certainly the likes of Chavez and his people

moving into the void.

So, Dr. Cohen.

Thank you.

Thank you, Dr. Cohen. I appreciate your testimony.

Thank you for your comment.

I don’t know if Israel had been discussed before I came, but I

wanted to mention that. What kind of a role, if any, destructive

role or positive role, is Russia playing in the Middle East today,

particularly with the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians?

How about Russian attempts to, what I think, is to

trivialize the fact that under the quartet, the Palestinians are supposed

to renounce terror and, of course, Hamas has done anything

but?

Yes, Dr. Cohen.

Can I just ask one quick thing? I know it is near and

dear to your heart, Madam Chair. I don’t know if there was discussion

about the Russian connection to the Castro regime in Cuba.