Reset, I like that. There you go.

I find it significant that many of the decision makers, our decision

makers, have a frame of reference in dealing with Russia that

has not changed since the end of the Cold War. And there was no

one, as Mr. Sestanovich can testify, who is more belligerent to the

Soviet Union than I was, especially during my time when I worked

with him in the Reagan White House. And there are reasons for

concern which you expressed, Madam Chairman, but I find many

of the people want to focus on some of the concerns and maybe perhaps

expand, have an expansionary view of those concerns, have

not appreciated the dramatic change that has taken place in Russia

in the last 20 years. Many of those criticizing Russia have this

same Cold War mentality and haven’t even been to Russia in the last 20 years.

They have had tremendous successes in reforms. We should be

encouraging them and working with them to that end, not

nitpicking with what I might suggest are sinister descriptions of certain activities.

And let me just note, Georgia attacked two provinces. It was a

Georgian violation of a longstanding truce. It wasn’t a Soviet or

Russian attack on Georgia that precipitated that problem. And if

we keep acting this way, nobody in Russia will ever take us seriously

unless we start to be more precise about using those words.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Ms. Swett, how many political prisoners are there in Russia today?

I am not asking that.

No, I am not asking you that at all. How

many political—you have an organization that focuses on political

prisoners. You cannot tell me the number of political prisoners that

Russia has. Of the deaths—you said there were 150 deaths of journalists in Russia.

Over what period of time?

7 years. So in the last 7 years there have

been 150 journalists who have met death, of some sort of violent death.

Could you send us for the record the list of

people you consider specifically political prisoners?

And a list of those journalists?

I went to a meeting with Russian journalists

who were complaining, and their numbers were far less than what

you are presenting to us today. And when I questioned them specifically—

you were there, Ileana—whether or not they were blaming

these deaths on the administration, meaning Putin and

Medvedev, or whether they were just saying that Medvedev and

Putin had not done enough to follow through after the deaths to

deter future type attacks, they were very clear that they were not

blaming Medvedev and Putin for these deaths. And this is a whole

different image that is being presented to us today.

Mr. Sestanovich, when we worked in the Reagan White House,

wasn’t that your impression, as it was mine, that President Reagan

expected that someday we would actually work on a joint missile

defense system with a democratic Russia?

The answer is yes, because I was there for a while.

Right. That was his goal.

His goal was to have a situation with Russia.

Was his goal to continue NATO after Russia pulled back from Eastern

Europe and went through a democratic process?

Yeah. Would you think it would be fair for

Russia to think of that as a belligerent act for us, instead of—when

they had pulled back all of their troops from Eastern Europe, but

instead we expanded NATO to their doorstep?

You wouldn’t think that that would be considered

belligerent? How about if Russia during that time period

decided that they would send nuclear weapons to, let’s say, Venezuela

or some other country that was deciding they didn’t like the United States?

I would think the Russians might be concerned

that maybe we weren’t being as friendly as we said we were

going to be, once the disintegration of the Communist Party leadership

in Russia took place, by us expanding NATO to their borders

and expanding a missile defense system which would neutralize their missiles.

Listen, I am not saying these things. These things are not—and

the people are saying, is this a moral equivalency argument? The

answer is, yes, it is. And the bottom line is we have lots of problems

in the United States, and so do the Russians. For example,

we heard that today Madam Chairman mentioned a statement

about a billy club and a protest.

Dr. Cohen, am I mistaken that there are protests that are permitted

in Russia today as compared to the Soviet Union? There

were no protests. Am I wrong that you go to the kiosk and you can

actually find newspapers that are printed against the regime, and

even in broadcasts you can hear radio people like Rush Limbaugh

in Russia complaining about Mr. Putin. Well, my visits to Russia,

people say that that is what they are hearing; and these are not

communists, former communists, so they are all wrong; is that correct?

Thank you very much. Let me just note, I

love Tom Lantos and I miss him every day and especially in the

fight for human rights. And with that said, we have had enormous,

enormous progress in Russia in human rights compared to what it

was 25 years ago. And by ignoring that and by focusing totally on

the shortcomings—and there are many shortcomings in the current

Russia—we are not doing justice by Mr. Lantos or anybody else.

The bottom line is, we should be siding with those people who are

struggling for democracy, but not ignoring the fact that today the

churches are filled in Russia.

And Dr. Cohen, I don’t know where you were, but I have been

in Russia and have been shown, just walked right down the street

and said, here are several publications that are being sold right

here that are anti-Medvedev and Putin. Those things would have

never happened under the old Russia, never.

And let us also note, China is the world’s worst human rights

abuser and the comparison of how we treat China economically as

compared to Russia, there is just no comparison. We are bending

over backwards to send all sorts of investment into China and to

strengthen them while they have no reform, no human rights reform.

And in Russia where they have at least had a lot of progress

and that, we still keep them under the grips of Jackson-Vanik and

other restrictions that were put on the Cold War. This is ridiculous.

And I would hope that we understand they have future progress

with Russia, but we need to treat it I think a little more honestly.

So that is all I needed to say. Thank you very much.