It is great to have you here. We all admired your

father and many of us look forward to the day when you are on

this side of the room.

The easiest thing for us to do in this room is to

say that all of the tension between the United States and Russia

is Russia’s fault, that we are blameless, that our policies are logical.

I think there is enough blame to go around; that we can give

Russia its fair share and still assume a little bit for ourselves. Now,

one of the great philosophical debates in foreign policy is territorial

integrity versus self-determination, the two great wars of America’s

history, our Revolutionary War for our self-determination and the

Civil War to retain our territorial integrity and prevent the socalled

self-determination of the southern States.

We see this tension in areas much closer to Russia. We supported

the independence of Georgia, Moldova, and all the Soviet Socialist

republics. We supported the independence of Bosnia and

Croatia, and even of the Kosovo province of the Republic of Serbia.

We opposed the independence of the northern part of Kosovo that

wanted to break away and rejoin Serbia. We opposed the independence

of Trans-Dniester, Moldova. We opposed the independence of

South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Now we seem to be on both sides of this issue. It seems like there

is no logic in this issue. It seems like there is no logic in our position.

There is logic. There is consistency. We are absolutely, insistently,

anti-Russian on a host of issues very important to them and

seemingly philosophically schizoid for us.

My first question, Ambassador, is, other than things that are in

the economic interest of Russia and/or feathering the economic interests

of particular elements of the leadership team, what does

Russia want from the United States?

I will ask you to respond back.

Yes. We haven’t totally called for the dismemberment

of the Russian Federation. Aside from that—well, you can answer my question.

If I can, the Russians have made the most difficult

national psychological change ever from superpower to non-superpower.

The Germans tried to make that change, having lost

World War I, just as Russia lost the Cold War. They were unsuccessful

in making that psychological adjustment until the Second World War.

Have we done everything possible to assuage Russia to make

sure that it is being treated with proper respect, or has the Cold

War mentality in the United States led to gratuitous acts of humiliation?

I hope we do a second round so I have a chance

to get the opinions of the other two witnesses, and I regret that I

only had 5 minutes. I yield back.