Mr. Chairman, I do not have formal opening remarks,

but I did want to respond very briefly to the comments of

the distinguished Ranking Member, the gentleman from Connecticut,

and simply to recognize and to remind our colleague that

in fact it was congressional direction that caused the Administration

to make an appointment. Of all the people that I think could

be satisfactory to both sides of the aisle, Secretary Perry would be

at the top of the list. I think all of us understand that he is a distinguished

American with good judgment and the background to

give us the best possible advice.

But I also hope my colleague will understand that the gravity of

the matter that faces us with respect to North Korea is so high

that this is not an issue on which this Member or, I think, most

Members seek partisan advantage.

I can think of no country where a conflict is more likely to start

because of irrational decisions on the part of a government than

the government of the DPRK. I would also like to assure my colleagues

that we understand that while there are things that have

happened during the Clinton Administration which are at least

subject to comment and possible criticism, the genesis to part of

this problem with regard to North Korea’s development of missiles

and the nuclear development program traced back to the Bush Administration.

But it is entirely appropriate for the Congress to conduct

oversight and verify we are on the right course.

We do not have any good choices with respect to what is happening

in the DPRK, but I think it would be wrong for us to ignore

it and simply not give our best advice and criticism to the Administration,

in power at this moment, if we, in fact, think there is a

better course. Thank you.

The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman asks unanimous consent to be

recognized on his own time.

It was not framed properly as a unanimous consent request.

The gentleman may finish his thought, in 30 seconds, please.

The gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher,

is recognized under the five minute rule.

I didn’t hear a question in that. If the witnesses

wish to respond in any fashion, they are welcome to do so.

Mr. Rohrabacher is recognized under the five minute rule.

The gentleman from New York, Mr. Ackerman,

is recognized under the 5-minute rule on his own time.

Thank you. We have two more Members to hear.

The gentlemen are entitled to respond, if they wish, as all witnesses are.

We need to proceed in order to expedite our opportunity

to hear from Secretary Perry, but the next gentleman on

the list is the gentleman from California, Mr. Campbell.

Are you asking that it be made part of the record?

[Presiding.] The Committee will resume its sitting.

The Chair and Committee would like to welcome our second

panel comprised of former Secretary of Defense Dr. William Perry,

currently serving as North Korea Policy Adviser at the U.S. State

Department, and his deputy, Ambassador Wendy Sherman. As I

understand it, Secretary Perry will be testifying, and Ambassador

Sherman will be available for questions from the Members. Welcome

to both of you distinguished Americans who have been pursuing

some very important responsibilities for the Administration,

and the U.S. Government. I hope you understand we felt, Secretary

Perry, that you were the right person to pursue this responsibility

that the Congress had requested.

I apologize for the Committee keeping you here for so long this

morning, but we had two colleagues who wanted to testify and

Members who wanted to question them at some length.

Secretary Perry, feel free to summarize your statements or give

them in entirety. We want to have your best input for us today,

and, in any case, your entire statement will be made part of the

record. I would ask Members to withhold their questions until the

testimony is completed.

Dr. Perry, thank you very much for your statement.

We will now proceed under the 5-minute rule. The Chair

would ask unanimous consent for reasons of fairness and comity

that we go first to the Members who waived their right to ask

questions of the previous panel at the urging of the Chair. That

being the case, we would proceed with Mr. Royce, Mr. Pomeroy, Dr.

Cooksey, if he returns, and Mr. Delahunt. Then we will return to regular order.

Hearing no objection, that will be the order. I regret the fact I

need to participate in the floor debate on OPIC right now. I ask

the gentleman from California if he would take the Chair, Mr. Campbell.

The gentleman from California, another gentleman, Mr. Royce, is

recognized for 5 minutes under the 5-minute rule.