Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A little over a year ago when the Republicans warned us that

they would attack the Administration on foreign policy, I hoped

that I had misread the headline, but constantly we are reminded

that this Congress has tried to make foreign policy, not philosophically

different, as is always the case where there are different

views, but different on a partisan basis. Of course, in the case of

North Korea, again we had the Speaker appointing a Republicans

only North Korea Advisory Group. It seems to me that started us

off on the wrong foot.

The Administration, responding to Congress’ desire, appointed

somebody who I think has a reputation across party lines as somebody

who would do the right thing for America’s national security

interests, Dr. Perry. Today the headline in the *Washington Times*

I think has it right. It says the regime would make nukes if the

pact collapses.

There is no argument here we are dealing with one of the worst

totalitarian states in the world, one of the states that seems to care

least for its own people, that has been as belligerent as any nation

in the Cold War Era and has not given up on the cold war, as almost

everybody else has.

But what is also clear is that we need to work on a bipartisan

policy, and not just bipartisan, but a policy that our South Korean

and our Japanese allies in the region support as well. While there

may be strong instinct here to create a partisan division on the peninsula,

the Korean Peninsula, it will be a mistake for America’s

national interests and for the constituents that we represent here

today.

There is no easy course to deal with the government in North

Korea. I think Dr. Perry is a pragmatist, a realist, and his assessment

is one I have confidence in. There are no guarantees anything

will work, but it is clear that disengagement will gain us a lot less

than engagement.

We have not stopped every negative action or effort by the North

Korean Government, but there is no question, as Dr. Perry will

state later in his testimony, that we have reduced their ability to

create harmful weapons. He now has an agreement that will limit

their ability to test new missiles, and I think that is an important

step forward.

I agree with the Chairman that we need to press to make sure

that every generous ounce of grain that America’s citizens provide

for the starving people of North Korea ought to be accounted for.

We ought to continue to press for better accounting, and there I

think we can find a joint effort of Democrats and Republicans in

this Congress. We want to make sure that the people that are intended

to receive the benefits get them, and they are not diverted.

The United States, I think, has to play the leading role on that

peninsula. Dr. Perry is right, this is no time to reduce the force

there. I think that we would go a long way to serving our country’s

interests if we tried to find a way to broaden the Speaker’s panel

on North Korea to include Democrats and Republicans, and that

while there will be differences even when you do that—and there

will be differences on our side of the aisle, there will be differences

also on your side—but we at least ought to begin this process based

on what is right, not a partisan division.

I yield my time to Mr. Ackerman.