Mr. Chairman, I would like to echo the responses

of my colleagues and address specifically my good friend from California,

Mr. Rohrabacher, with reference to Democrats preempting

the investigative responsibility of the Majority by bringing up partisan concerns.

I have the good fortune, Congressman Rohrabacher, of serving

with one of the most distinguished Members of this Committee that

all of us have great respect for, and that is Doug Bereuter, in a bipartisan

task force with the responsibility of monitoring the reversion

of Hong Kong and Macau. At no time during the course of the

activities that Mr. Bereuter has conducted have any of the Democrats

on the Committee been denied any access to information that

was pertinent to the development of our reports, and in some respects

sometimes critical of the Administration’s policy.

I think that is a healthier approach. That task force, interestingly

enough, was appointed by former Speaker Newt Gingrich,

and albeit all of us recognizing the gravity of the situation that we

are involved in, I think it more than appropriate for Congress to

review policies of a reprehensible government. But I think that wisdom

would dictate that it would be a healthier review if both sides

of the aisle were involved.

In that regard, I weigh in with my colleagues forcefully to assert

that I, for one, find it anathema that we are going to approach an

investigatory undertaking. How would you all feel if we just formed

a little Democrat task force and all of a sudden we came here and

said to you this was going to be our policy? I think all of us recognize

that there are legitimate concerns regarding North Korea. We

would be foolish not to recognize their oppressive policies.

There is something about letting people starve that causes me as

a human being to want to do everything I can to ensure that they

do not. That is whether it is dealing with North Korea or any other

government in the world. Toward that end, those legitimate humanitarian

interests need to be approached with a bipartisan flare

as opposed to a one-sided kind of view.

Will the Chairman yield just 1 minute? Mr.

Chairman, I have been to South Korea with you twice. I have been

there four times since I have served on this Committee.

I have an abiding interest with respect to what

happens. I believe that I can help the Committee to develop its policy

just as well as one side. I am not usurping its Speaker’s prerogatives.