Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first want to commend you all. In particular, I want to commend

President Bush, the secretariats of Defense and secretariats

of State for everything you have done in this effort. The military

has done a great job. The help from the Uzbeks, also enlightened. Pakistani leaders, all have helped our just cause.

This war is not over, but in the midst of it I also want to commend

the American people for their generosity and caring in trying

to get humanitarian aid into an area where obviously outsiders

have not been welcome at all. So while there may be some difficulties,

which we all hate waste, we are trying to help people, and I

think people ought to look at our heart and our will and our desire

to help out in humanitarian aid. I know that you and all of us want

that to be done. But I want to commend the intent and also recognize

how difficult that is in this particular situation while a war is still going on.

This war on terrorism is far from over. Indeed, the war is going

very well in Afghanistan, but Osama bin Laden has not been captured

in any way whatsoever. Al-Qaeda still exists. The leaders of

the Taliban, those repressive leaders, are still involved.

Now, beside all that, here is our goals. I was looking—I always

like to have guiding principles or goals, and what we want to do

is to help the many diverse people in Afghanistan constitute a representative

confederation or federation. We have to advocate certain

principles or precepts that are the foundation of it and really for successful self-government.

When you look at—you have to ensure certain rights and a structure.

I was just thinking, with all this tragedy there is a brighter

future. You both talked about it. This is actually positive in the

long run for Afghanistan. The idea of setting up new governments

is something we did years ago, and once again we need modern day

James Madisons or George Masons involved in constituting these governments.

But note all the new governments that have been set up in say

the last 10 years: Poland; the Czech Republic, they split with the

Slovaks amicably; Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Croatia,

Slovenia, the Baltics, Armenia, Georgia, the Ukraine, and Belarus.

Now we have a new opportunity for a better and brighter future.

I think that the key is to allow all the people from all the regions, the diverse groups, to have their own representatives. In Secretary Rocca’s statement on page 2, talking about the key,

I agree with you completely. No. 1, it should be broad-based and

representative of Afghans’ diverse ethnic and religious groups. It

should preserve the unity of territorial integrity of the country and

should protect the human rights of all its citizens, including women.

I agree with what you said, Ambassador Haass, and with your

sentiments that the Afghan people should be controlling their own

destiny. Those are basic principles for us, but need to be applied

to this situation, the diverse situation in Afghanistan.

Now, with all of these, all the groups and factions involved in the

agreements in Bonn, (a), how do you believe or where do you see

the sincerity and the commitment to these sort of principles out of

these various factions? And (b), what commitments to human

rights practices is this interim government taking? And what role

will women—this will be a key thing. This is not just ethnic; it is also gender equality.

I think it is good that there are two women given positions in

this interim cabinet. But beyond that, where do you see the commitment

and sincerity of this interim government for these principles, as well as in particular the rights and opportunities for

women, because I think in the long run that is going to be key. Beyond

the security will also be the education of a population so that

it can seize the opportunities of the world and actually live a more

prosperous life with better human rights.