Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I was amused when we sat down and somebody made a comment

about reconstruction. The Senator, my seatmate here, said: ‘‘Reconstruction

is a bad word in Virginia.’’ This is 140 years after the

Civil War. So the goal of having the Northern Alliance and ex-

Taliban living in peace shows the formidable task in front of us.

I do have a question following up on Senator Hagel and Senator

Lugar’s line of questioning. Assistant Secretary Rocca, you gave us

a geographic tour of the area, going through Pakistan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan. Although the Peo-

ple’s Republic of China does have only a remote, not a very lengthy

border with Afghanistan, what is it’s role? Have the Chinese been

involved? Were they at Bonn? Or is the U.S.-Sino relationship still

influenced by the incident with our airplane, and there is not really

any involvement from the People’s Republic of China?

What do you make of them not being in Bonn?

They are one of the six.

I’m wondering what they are thinking in Beijing,

what are they thinking about this whole situation?

So what is the status, Mr. Chairman?

I have heard and admired your testimony and

I look forward to hearing from the Rhode Islander next.

First of all, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for

choosing such a distinguished witness, a woman who brings a compelling

perspective and ability to comment on recent events in Afghanistan

and how that nation can prosper in the future. So thank you.

I am curious about the rise of fundamentalism across the Islamic

world not just in Afghanistan with the Taliban. What do you believe

are the root causes of Islamic fundamentalism?

I suppose that question could be answered in

weeks and months.

A complex question. You mentioned the rise of

Western influence, and you spoke about the delicate balance and

possible resentment of Western influence in the country. Whether

that will galvanize further fundamentalism is, in my view, one of

the challenges for the West.

I applaud your confidence in democracy, I really do.

Did that ever happen to you?