Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Pickering, you made comment about the 2003 decision that

was made, which I think everyone agrees to. I have reservations

about the permanency of that decision or the depth of that decision.

You seem to accept that decision as one that it really overrides

what is going on today.

How do you square that with the fact that they are building so

many centrifuges, they are increasing the number of centrifuges

rapidly, and the degree to which they are enriching nuclear material?

How does that square with the 2003 decision?

By the way, I do get briefings. I am on the Intelligence

Committee.

Relatively regularly.

But the problem—the problem——

Go ahead.

Well, I guess the only part I have difficulty with

is the degree to which they are enriching. I mean, it is hard, when

you look at the percentage and the degree to which they are enriching,

it really hard to say, well, you know, this could be for civilian

or it could be for medical.

There are some real issues there. Would you agree with me on

that, Mr. Pickering?

You made a comment, I think it was parenthetically,

but you talked about, I think I picked up your comment

about Iran’s preoccupation with drugs. And you were using it as

compared to our preoccupation with their nuclear program, something

like that.

It is something we don’t talk about much. Could you give us,

briefly give us your thoughts on that?

What——

That same question has been asked by a number

of us United States Senators, and it is the elephant in the room

nobody wants to talk about.

General Cartwright, just briefly, you talked about the steps that

Iran would have to go through to produce, to get to the point of a

nuclear weapon. And a number of those were based upon your

analysis, or at least an analysis of their own development.

Assuming you have access to intelligence information, are you

concerned with the commerce between North Korea and Iran,

which could short-circuit some of those steps? Because obviously

North Korea has accomplished those steps and has already gone

through this. And they both, in many respects, have similar motivations

regarding the United States. Does that concern you?

And of course, this is not only measured by us,

but also by the Israelis?

Thank you. My time is up.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.