Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief.

I appreciate your holding this hearing and having the opportunity

to work with our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee

and I would agree with my colleague from Montana that the grain

embargoes of the past, whether Nixon, Ford, Carter, or whomever,

have not necessarily worked to the benefit of our Nation’s best interests.

On the other hand, I think we understand that the tools available

to us are limited and imperfect. If it were such a simple matter

to rid ourselves of Saddam Hussein, that would have been done

long ago during the Bush administration. The options are limited.

I am interested in learning a bit more about the oil-for-food strategy.

It is ongoing now. This is unprecedented. To my knowledge we

have never before had an international effort to take over control

and regulation of a nation’s own resources to see to it that they are

used for specific purposes, the effort is an imperfect one, and I

think we have to be concerned about the scope of the illegal oil

sales that do continue to go on, and I would be interested in Mr.

Pickering and the rest of the panel’s discussion of how this fits into

that context.

So I am looking forward to the testimony, and I will submit a

statement for the record.