Good morning. At the

beginning of my statement I would like to say briefly that I have

just received a message from the President of Chechnya

Maskhadov. The Chechen President Maskhadov asks me to make

it known to the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

that the Chechen government, first of all, condemns all terrorist

activity and does not support any extremist groups; and second,

emphasizes the need for a negotiated solution.

To save time, I am asking that my prepared statement be just

read in English, and afterwards I will be answering questions.

I will start a little bit

from afar by saying that, first of all, you need to evaluate the situation

and have a correct picture of both the situation and the state

that is Russia that you are dealing with. I would say that the last

10 years can be characterized in terms of the United States position

by saying that the United States is taking the desired state

of affairs as real.

We did not really move that far toward democratization in the

years that Russia existed as a separate entity from the Soviet

Union and since 1993 we are steadily moving in the direction opposite

to democratization. Today, though it is very difficult and sad

for me to state so because I am talking about my country and my

people, both of whom I love, but I state it: Today we have not a

democratic state, but a criminal-military state.

Now more specifically on the question of what to do about this

current Russia-Chechen war. First of all, I think that the diplomatic

pressure put on Russia can be more forceful and more specific.

I believe that no loans, no aid of any kind, either from the

United States directly or from international, any international organization,

can be given to a country that is conducting such a war.

I am not a financial specialist, so it is difficult for

me to comment on the specifics of how restructuring is different

from other things. But I have heard now for example that South

Korea has forfeited some amounts of credits that have been given

in the past to Russia. I do not understand why that should be done.

Right now there are negotiations being conducted about humanitarian

assistance from the United States in terms of delivery of

foodstuffs. That kind of aid, of course, is different in the sense that

it is not delivered as money, as finances.

But at the same time I should say that what was done in previous

years with this kind of assistance when it was agreed that

some funds would go toward the pension fund in Russia, at least

50 percent of that was machinations and lies. I do not want to take

up too much time of the committee, but I could have given you examples

how some of the food assistance given to Russia in some regions

was being sold and the resulting money put in banks controlled

by children of members of the government.

I have personally discussed several times with USAID head office

here in Washington my opinion that if any aid is delivered to Russia

as a whole that includes funds which are supposed to be distributed

to the regions, the proportional part of that aid which is supposed

to go to Chechnya should be delivered directly to Chechnya,

because otherwise it never reaches its destination. I was every time

told that such policy is impossible to implement because it will offend Russia.

Also I should note that when a reduction—talking still about the

policies of providing financial and other assistance to Russia, when

reductions in these kinds of programs were implemented in the

past, the specific example last year USAID have gone through a reduction

of programs oriented toward Russia, have decided that the

first step that they are going to take will be canceling grant support

for nongovernmental organizations in Russia. That is precisely

those organizations that are concerned with human rights and humanitarian

work in Russia.

Now, specifically in terms of the kind of aid that the United

States should be giving right now, I think that it should be in the

form of financial assistance for international organizations which

are currently working in Chechnya or that can get accredited and

start the field work.

It is also important that the humanitarian aid, financial assistance

for the purpose of humanitarian aid, should be delivered not

through the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations and not

through the Russian Federation Migration Service which is supposedly

taking care of refugees, but only through the political leaders

who have a reputation in the region, in the North Caucasus region,

for their honesty and financial integrity.

I believe that such leaders in that region are Ingushetia’s President

Aushev and Chechnya’s President Maskhadov.