Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and

thank you for your testimony.

There are three major challenges that I want to talk about. You

have already talked about them.

One, it is clear that North Korea is moving aggressively on its

nuclear weapons program.

Second, as Senator Rubio pointed out, the record on human

rights violations in the country is one of the worst of any country

in the world, the way they treat their people, no opportunity for

dissent, no opportunity for criticisms. Their kidnapping and torture

are notorious.

And the third is the condition of their own people, the level of

poverty, the level of hunger.

So I want to ask you three points that have been raised.

One is that North Korea has threatened to cut off the military

hotline. How important is that in dealing with the threat of confrontation?

Second, the United Nations is looking at a commission on human

rights. Should we have any confidence that that, in fact, would put

an adequate spotlight on what is happening?

And the third is our contact in North Korea is limited. We do not

have a great deal of NGOs to work with. We are not providing any

significant aid at all. Should we be reevaluating the United States

participation with NGOs to try to reach out to deal with the population

itself in North Korea?

Have we used it in the past?

Before we leave that point, are there still

hurdles that have to be overcome for that commission to be

established?

We have, in the past when we have imposed

sanctions, tried to figure out ways that we can get direct aid to

NGOs that we have confidence in to provide the type of humanitarian

aid that is appropriate. Do we have confidence that if that

aid were to be made available, that the NGO network is strong

enough and there is enough accountability that we would be able

to assure that the aid, in fact, went for the designated purpose and

was not diverted to compromise the importance of the sanctions?

I will just make a final point. For Congress to

allow that type of assistance, we need to know and have confidence

that we can account for how the aid is being used since we are not

present in the country to be able to do that. We have to have that

type of confidence. So it is something that you need to be able to

build up as far as the questions that will be asked in Congress.