Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Secretary

Armitage, again, for appearing here and giving us your perspective.

Mr. Chairman, I want to associate myself with your remarks and

comments as far as the refugees from North Korea. The United

States is a country that has always been on the side of people escaping

for freedom and finding a way to do it. And I know the Secretary

has personal experience in that regard.

This, Mr. Secretary, is a time of much concern across America

and all around the world. Today we’re commemorating the lives

lost on the Columbia and continuing to comfort the families, and

we’ll be making strategic decisions regarding NASA. We’re continuing

a war on terrorism, in Afghanistan, specifically. Your office

and Secretary Powell are pursuing action to disarm Saddam Hussein,

who clearly does possess weapons of mass destruction, specifically

in the form of biological and chemical weapons, as well as

missile capabilities, or trying to develop the missile capabilities to

deliver weapons of mass destruction. As well as their association

with terrorism.

Then we focus here in this hearing on North Korea, a country

that clearly has chemical weapons, has biological weapons, clearly

has developed nuclear capabilities as well as the missile capabilities

to hit U.S. interests and those of our allies.

The point is not that you just focus on one or the other on all

these different things. We don’t have to be standing there without

actions. We need to make specific plans that are specific to the

challenge or the danger to our country and our interests. And I

think that you’re showing that capacity and capability, and I know

that the Senate has the ability to focus on more than one crisis or

one challenge.

In these tactics or challenges as we face North Korea, these are

not issues of first impression. The 1994 Agreed Framework negotiations

with North Korea, the United States agreed to finance and

supply North Korea with the two light-water reactors in exchange

for internationally monitored freezes and dismantling of their nuclear

infrastructure, as I understand it. But notably absent from

this agreement was any restriction on North Korea’s proliferation

activity. And we’ve mentioned here that North Korea, seemingly

freely—has transferred ballistic missile technology to belligerent,

dangerous countries such as Iran, Syria, Libya and Yemen. And, in

fact, the Defense Department’s January 2001 report or publication,

‘‘Proliferation Threat and Response,’’ characterize North Korea as

a major proliferator of ballistic missiles and related technologies

and warned that the sale of No Dong missile technology to Iran has

created an immediate, serious, and growing capability to target

U.S. forces and our allies in the Middle East.

Now, this clearly is a grave danger to the United States and our

allies. And given our President’s commitment to resolve the current

standoff with North Korea through diplomatic means, will you assure

us that the United States will include the suspension of North

Korean missile sales in any negotiated agreement that it has reached?

And, followup question to that, what are we doing, in concrete

tangible steps, to the extent that you can share that with us, to

make sure that this proliferation of missile technology and nuclear

capabilities is not transferred to belligerents elsewhere?

Nevertheless, we allowed it to go forward, and we were complicit in it.

Right. OK. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.