Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this

hearing at this important time. And I thank, Secretary Armitage,

again, for all his cooperation with the committee.

I would like to follow on the chairman’s comments. Some statements

from some in the administration suggest that the United

States is resigned to the reality of a nuclear-armed,

nuclear-weapons-producing North Korea. Given North Korea’s history of proliferation,

I find this posture unacceptable, and can you assure me

that this is not the case?

Now, when some in the Muslim world

suggest——

Yes, please.

Very good.

When some in the Muslim world suggest that America appears

to have a higher level of tolerance for North Korean WMD development

than for Iraqi development, and then further suggest that

this evidence of hostility toward Islam, how are we responding to

this? And is this something we are hearing in our posts in the Muslim

world?

So you have not heard anything from Muslim

or Arab countries that this is somehow a double standard?

Well, I would appreciate any followup from

the Department on this point. I think, obviously, how we are coming

off in the Arab and Muslim world is a terribly important thing

and, as it relates to North Korea, is something I am interested in

following.

Would you compare for me North Korea’s history

of proliferation with that of Iraq? Which country has a more

worrisome record of proliferation?

Is it fair to say that, in terms of the discussions

we have had about Iraq, that proliferation of these weapons

is not, in particular, the leading modus operandi of that regime?

Perhaps the development, the threats, but I would argue that we

have not heard a lot about this as being a normal modus operandi

of Baghdad.

In your assessment, how badly damaged is

the U.S./South Korean relationship at this point? Is it reparable?

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.