Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr.

Secretary, welcome.

What am I to make of this story in the Washington

Post this morning with the headline, ‘‘U.S. Bombers Put On

Alert For Deployment In Pacific’’?

And what is the event it’s designed to address?

What is the nature of the advantage you

would anticipate they might try to take?

This would be a move against South Korea?

Is that what your answer——

Now, what’s the view of the South Koreans

on this issue, on the Korean Peninsula and the conduct of North

Korea?

Which is what?

Have the South Koreans indicated to us what

approach or course they would like to see the United States follow

as we deal with the North Korean situation?

And how long have we been agreed on the notion

that we will talk to them?

Well, this assurance of the international base

leads me to the next headline that’s in this morning’s paper. It

says, ‘‘China’s Reluctance Irks U.S., Beijing Shows No Inclination

To Intervene in North Korea Crisis.’’ What’s the situation there?

Well, they are providing considerable support

to North Korea, are they not?

Now, before my time expires, let me exhaust

the other headline in this morning’s paper, ‘‘North Korea Said To

See Opportunity In Iraq Crisis.’’ That’s the headline, and it reads,

‘‘North Korea, convinced that the United States is distracted by the

prospect of war with Iraq, is attempting to convert the situation

into an opportunity to force long-sought negotiations by intensifying

its nuclear weapons standoff with Washington.’’ Is that how

you see that situation?

Would you regard the threat posed by North

Korea as greater than the threat posed by Iraq?

But it must have affected our thinking in

that regard when Ambassador Kelly got in effect, that outright

challenge when he went to North Korea in October, did it not?

A big problem.

Would you label it a ‘‘crisis’’?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.