Sir, I just want to add something, Assistant Secretary

Kelly, that that is part of what we do in the working group.

We look at all the issues. Indeed, verification is a critical issue because

there is so much we do not know about North Korea, and

there has to be a commitment on their part to move toward

denuclearization rather than, as Mr. Kelly indicated a few minutes

ago, to have a covert uranium enrichment program. That is not the

spirit. We would need cooperation on their part. We would need

transparency on their part, and down the road we are looking at

the IAEA and others who have a great deal of expertise in North

Korea to participate in a process of that nature. But it would have

to be a strategic decision taken by Kim Jong-il at the highest levels

to commit to denuclearization and not to come up with, if you will,

a covert program to ensure they have a nuclear card in the longer

term.

Sir, certainly Russia and the PRC were consulted

on the proposal that the United States presented at the last round.

We have had very intense discussions with the Republic of Korea

and with the Government of Japan all along, certainly with the

People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation also.

So let me say I think we could categorize it that way because the

Republic of Korea has been very forthcoming in proposing things.

They have actually put proposals in front of us where they have

said, we would like to move on it. They have been a bit more

proactive in saying we need to put something on the table and

being very definitive. The same for the Government of Japan. It

does not mean, however, sir, that the People’s Republic of China

and the Russian Federation have not been forward-leaning. It is

just that we have had more concrete proposals by both those governments

which fit in very nicely with our game plan where we

wanted to present a road map. Knowing that North Korea is moving

toward economic reforms, knowing that they are looking for, if

you will, international legitimacy, we thought this was the time to

pull all the pieces together.

Extremely important, sir. Extremely important.

China is in many ways the key to success. They have a very, very

close working relationship with the Democratic People’s Republic of

Korea. As we speak, their Minister of Defense is visiting in Beijing.

They have had high-level visits going back and forth, Kim Jong-il

into Beijing, and they have had senior Chinese officials into

Pyongyang. So China is very critical and they have been facilitating

the six-party process in a very effective way, sir.

We continue to ask for more assistance. We continue to ask the

People’s Republic of China to better convince the DPRK that they

need to be more forthcoming in these talks. The relationship is

close with the PRC.

Sir, I am going to ask Assistant Secretary Kelly.

But my quick response to that would be in all the discussions I

have had with the PRC and Jim Kelly in all our meetings, Taiwan

has never been mentioned in any of our discussions as we work the

North Korea issue. But I will look to Assistant Secretary Kelly to

elaborate.

Sir, we have discussed this in the working group

sessions. We get into these various issues. So we have talked about

natural gas, coal-fired plants, et cetera as opportunities ahead for

them. I think the North Koreans see it in that light.

Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We usually are in

a working group, and certainly when we have direct contact with

our North Korean colleagues, we get into the whole panoply of the

issues, in addition to the nuclear issue. We do speak about what

you just spoke about, Senator Brownback. And certainly human

rights is right on top of the list there. Our North Korean counterparts

are very much aware of this, sir, understanding that these

issues, certainly the human rights issue, have to be addressed as

we move toward normalization.

And we see the DPRK looking toward normalization as the ultimate

goal for international legitimacy, what it means for the economic

reforms, and so forth. So the word that was used this morning—‘‘

incentive’’—there is an extreme incentive out there for them

to move on all these issues, indeed, to include the human rights

issue. With more transparency and the greater knowledge we have

about these, the more pressure on them to rectify some of this very

unfortunate behavior.