Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having this

very important hearing. Secretary Hill, thanks to you for joining us

today. I want to add my voice to the others in thanking you for

your continued service in our Government. I know that you are

working on these issues day in and day out and I appreciate your

professionalism and your dedication.

I also appreciate the work that the men and women in the State

Department are doing, both here and throughout the world, and I

hope you pass on this committee’s appreciation for their efforts in

some of our country’s most difficult tasks.

I think we all agree that North Korea remains one of the greatest

challenges to our country’s foreign and national security policy.

It is clear that approaches to date have not been successful. It is

also clear that we are all interested in contributing to an approach

that will work.

That said, Mr. Secretary, I remain concerned that our policy in

North Korea has been dormant for too long. It appears to me and

others that we have been waiting on the sidelines, hoping, almost

passively, that conditions will turn our way. We have been distracted

by Iraq, so much so that it took North Korea’s launch of

seven missiles before we got fully engaged again.

North Korea should be at or near the top of our foreign policy

agenda. We need to figure out a way to get North Korea back into

the international fold. Unfortunately, we cannot do that if we signal

that our true desires are regime change and if we refuse to consider

other options.

This is not really a partisan issue as much as a true policy challenge.

While some of us may differ in approach, we are all interested

in learning about what the United States Government and

the international community can do to get North Korea to change

its behavior. And I am glad you are here to shed some light on

that, and I have been listening to some of the questions you have

already answered.

I would like to follow up on the chairman’s comments and questions

and talk a little bit in more detail about direct and formal

diplomatic engagement with North Korea. What are, if any, the

negative aspects of opening a direct and formal diplomatic dialog

with North Korea?

So your main concern that I have heard here

about direct talks is that it would undermine the Six Party Talks?

Say a little bit more about—could you just

speculate a bit about what positive outcomes could come from direct

engagement with North Korea? I understand the negative is

that it could undermine the broader talks, which sounds like you

say that without the Six Party Talks it will not work. But are there

some positives that could come out of directly engaging with North

Korea?

Yes. I just want you to speculate on that.

This was all in the context of the Six Party

Talks, right?

I understand that. But what it sounds to me

is that if they refuse to return to the Six Party Talks for the next

2 years and continue to build weapons, the most we will do are

these sort of informal contacts or talking with them when they basically

shoot off some missiles. It sounds like we are going to be

at a pretty low level of contact with them. Is that a likelihood?

How do you know that, though, given how

difficult they are to understand?

I know you are not in charge of the Iran policy,

but I would like to talk a little bit about how we are handling

the nuclear standoff with Iran and what it means for North Korea.

In your opinion, are there any ramifications or lessons or impacts

that our current policy on Iran is having on North Korea? Is North

Korea watching our policy in Iraq and Iran and other places, and

in your mind what is it sort of taking from that?

In your opinion are there any sort of red lines

that if North Korea crossed them China, Russia, and South Korea

would agree to cut off all aid and trade to the regime?

What then in your opinion is likely to be Kim

Jong-Il’s next move? Is there a chance that he will try to launch

another series of missiles or, worse, as you just alluded to, conduct

a nuclear test? What is your guess?