Secretary Hill, thank you for your time this morning. Thank you

for all that you are doing, obviously quite tireless in your efforts

as we try to deal with North Korea. It has been interesting sitting

through your testimony this morning. You have been asked to speculate

about a lot of things: What is Kim Jong-Il going to do next?

Why did he do it? That was my question to you this morning: Why

did he—why did he launch?

The Chinese have been telling him no. Everyone has been telling

him no. Why did he do it? I think when those missiles were

launched on the Fourth of July, we here in this country took it very

personally, that you would send these our way on our Independence

Day.

But you indicated in your testimony earlier, I think you said, you

used the phrase ‘‘there was a missile there for everybody.’’ So it

was not necessarily—and I am speculating now—it was not necessarily

just directed at the United States to send us a message,

but to the Japanese, to South Korea, to China, to the neighborhood

in general, everyone within proximity, and I think to the world.

I am going to be leaving this hearing this morning not any more

entirely sure why he did it. But I think that is part of our problem.

We cannot understand the actions, if you will, of Kim Jong-Il and

why he does what he does. That makes your job as the chief negotiator

that much more difficult.

Hopefully, he understands that it was

flawed as well.

Nobody has really discussed the upcoming ASEAN Regional

Forum that is going to be held in Malaysia next week. That is

being viewed by many as our first opportunity to kind of have others

engaged with the Six Party Talks to come together and put the

pressures that will be needed to have North Korea come in and

talk. I know that Secretary Rice is hoping to meet with the North

Korea Foreign Minister. I have read reports that the prognosis for

this and whether or not we are going to achieve any success is perhaps

not very optimistic at this point.

I would ask your opinion as to whether you think we are going

to have any success in Malaysia. I had a meeting with the foreign

minister from Thailand and I know he met with Secretary Rice. He

offered his assistance as well. How can we utilize others to kind of

bring North Korea around? So if you can address what we can expect

in the next couple weeks?

There was an article in the Wall Street

Journal a couple weeks ago using the terminology ‘‘the threat perception

gap’’ as it relates to North Korea and how other, the surrounding

nations, South Korea, Japan, China, view, have viewed,

and currently view North Korea. It was an interesting observation

about what they called the disconnect between how the United

States views the threat of North Korea and how South Korea, who

has been sitting literally in the crosshairs of North Korea as the

neighboring country for 50 years, and a recognition that there is

more at stake than just being within missile range from South Korea’s

perspective.

The concern may be that—and this is the reference in the article—

that it is not the nuclear capability or the missiles themselves,

but the South Koreans fear a United States overreaction could

drive Pyongyang further into the Chinese camp, thus ruling out

any reunification. Can you kind of speak to that dynamic that we

are dealing with with South Korea? Obviously they are very concerned

about North Korea’s actions, but they have other issues that

they are intimately tied with with their neighbor to the north.

I appreciate that.

I am going to ask you to engage in just one more question of

speculation. Is North Korea perhaps trying to wait out the Bush

administration to see if they get something better in the next

round?

We appreciate all your good work and I

thank you.