Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A Washington Post article, March 5, says, ‘‘The United States

has begun to accept the idea of a nuclear-armed North Korea. Increasingly,

the Bush Administration is turning its attention to preventing

the communist government in Pyongyang from selling nuclear

material to the highest bidder.’’ The article implies that the

United States is acquiescing that North Korea would remain a nuclear

power and, therefore, is trying to contain its proliferation. Is

that acceptable, in your opinion?

And you did it very well, by the way.

Well, that is good to hear. I increasingly find

myself frustrated with the style and the tone of the administration

as we confront this problem, as we confront other problems, Iraq,

the way diplomatically we have handled Turkey, where increasingly

we appear to be the big bad boy bully on the schoolyard and

people are or other countries are reacting to that.

Do you have any idea what went on in the President’s mind as

to why a year ago in that State of the Union Speech he would lump

North Korea in, calling them part of the ‘‘axis of evil?’’

And would you care to characterize the aftermath

of that, how North Korea has responded to being so called?

Of course.

At the end of the day, I agree with you all that

we cannot allow a nuclear-armed and proliferating North Korea.

And at the end of the day, if we have to, there is the military option.

That is not a palatable option, but it is an option. Were we

to exercise that option, in your opinion, can we fight two wars at

the same time?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.