Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for

coming in late. I was pleased to be here for all the testimony,

which was excellent, and this is such an important hearing. I had

to be at Judiciary, but I thank you for allowing me to go forward

and I will try not to use the whole time.

I thank the chairman and Senator Biden for holding this important

hearing. And by focusing on what can be done and what might

be possible, I think this committee is playing a very important role

in resisting, what I could call, the forces of resignation and complacency

with regard to this crisis. And I believe that those forces are

truly dangerous ones.

My staff tells me that Senator Nelson referred to these recent articles.

Yesterday, both the Washington Post and the Los Angeles

Times reported that the administration has accepted the idea of a

nuclear-armed North Korea. And like many of my colleagues, I

read those reports with a great deal of alarm. And it is especially

because of the good work of the chairman here that we have a

number of hearings where we can follow these issues through.

And just last month, in this committee, I asked Deputy Secretary

of State Armitage to assure me and to assure the committee, that

the administration was not resigned to the reality of a nucleararmed,

nuclear-weapons-producing North Korea. And he gave me

his solemn assurance that there was no such sentiment of resignation

in the administration and no such acceptance. Yet these reports

continue to surface.

Given North Korea’s history of proliferation, a history that the

administration acknowledges is far more serious than Iraq’s proliferation

history, this is a cause for grave concern.

Wishing that the situation in North Korea was not a grave security

threat does not make it true. Wishing that the United States

could focus solely on Iraq does not mean that we can. Operating

on wishful thinking is irresponsible. And I think on this one, the

American people deserve far better and I think our constituents are

just very confused about how one approach can be taken vis-a` -vis

Iraq and such a different attitude vis-a`-vis North Korea.

Let me just ask a couple of questions. At this point, based on the

information available to you, do you believe that the United States

has succeeded in communicating to North Korea that nuclear

weapons production will not be tolerated? Or might there be some

ambiguity on that point in the North Korean perceptions of the situation?

Dr. Carter.

Mr. Einhorn.

Dr. Kanter.

Let me ask one other question. Are there any

sound models for the kind of intensive and comprehensive

verification mechanisms that would have to be part of any viable

agreement with North Korea, or would we have to sort of enter uncharted

territory?

I thank you. Yes, doctor.

Mr. Einhorn.

I thank the witnesses and thank you, Mr. Chairman.