Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General Gration, our country owes you a debt of thanks. You

have what may be the most complex and difficult envoy appointment in the history of the United States. And I think your predecessor,

Mr. Williamson, would have agreed to that, after he left.

I would like to follow up on the Senator from Wisconsin’s question

and your comments about conflict mitigation teams. I have

been to the Darfur region of Sudan. I have also listened to testimony

at previous hearings on Sudan. I remember the previous administration

never had the logistical capability to really do the job

it wanted to do. Do you have the tactical and logistical capability

to get conflict mitigation teams to the places they need to go, either

through what you have at your disposal or cooperation with

UNAMID or the other people involved?

On that point, in March 2009 the Government

in Khartoum expelled 13 NGOs operating in Darfur. I happened to

travel to Darfur with Senator Corker about 3 months later. I think

Chairman Kerry had been there a couple months before. Has the

Government in Khartoum behaved itself better, vis-a-vis the NGOs

that are there trying to deliver humanitarian assistance to the

Darfuri people?

Well, I know a year ago the incidents of rape

and gender-based violence had started to decline in Darfur. From

your statement I take it that it is picking back up again, or is

it——

Right.

Will the vote on the referenda take place next

February? Is that right? Is that the target date, or is it April,

or——

Right.

Of next year?

Last question. And I apologize that I missed

your verbal testimony, but I’ve been trying to scan the prepared

text beforehand. In it, I see you say that they have made progress

on relationships in Darfur, particularly with the proxy war. That

was the one with the Chadian rebels and the Janjaweed. Is that

correct?

And so we have a better climate there, as far

as that proxy war is concerned?

Thank you for your service, General.