Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Ambassador, first let me say that I concur in Senator

Menendez’s questions and frustration and—we’ve run out of

patience.

But I want to, first, thank you for your efforts. You have kept

us informed. You have relayed, I think, our message to the players.

And, I think, as a result of your efforts, lives have been saved. And

that’s a record that you can be very proud of. You’ve been very persistent.

And I think the administration has been strong in regards

to our position on Darfur. But it lacks a sense of urgency internationally.

This month, we will commemorate the Day of Remembrance for

the Holocaust caused by the Nazis. And since I’ve been in Congress,

we’ve seen genocide in the former Yugoslavia Republics, in

Rwanda, and now in Darfur. And we need to take action.

The open violence may have been reduced in the Darfur region

or the Sudan, but the circumstances in the villages are very vulnerable.

The circumstances in the refugee camps are very vulnerable.

And relief workers are at extreme risk. At any day, violence could

continue and expand, and there could be additional tragedies. And,

as you’ve pointed out, we do have genocidal conditions every day

with people being killed, displaced, and raped.

So, we need to move forward, at least on two fronts. One is the

plan B, the sanctions. I understand another delay—I really don’t

understand another delay. I think we originally said that we were

going to impose sanctions several months ago, and that date has

passed. We can be very effective in imposing sanctions, with or

without the support of other countries.

I heard you mention some of the other—same countries, that we

are not getting the type of cooperation we need in regards to Iran,

in imposing sanctions against Iran. These are not new issues, and

there’s a lot of issues on the agendas of these countries. But one

thing we can do is act, the United States can. And we need to do

that.

I want to mention a second front in which we can act, and that

is in the war crimes tribunal. We have not gotten much help internationally

on using the International Criminal Courts. But for the

action of this Congress in standing up to Serbia and other countries,

I doubt if we would have had the type of cooperation in regards

to the indictments against those involved in the former Yugoslavia.

I think this Congress is prepared to help in regards to the International

Criminal Courts. Clearly, two indictments have been

issued, as I understand. The investigations continue. And I don’t

think you can compromise these issues. I understand the nervousness

of the Sudanese Government. They should be nervous. But

this is something that cannot be compromised, because if you compromise

now, we’re just going to have another problem down the

road.

So, I would just ask—we haven’t had much discussion here at

this hearing on the war crimes issue. I hope that’s not being compromised,

as far as our position in that regard. Those that are culpable

should be held accountable. And that we have lost—we’ve

run out of time on plan B. It’s time to move forward with it.

Let me just point out, the prosecutors, if they

don’t have the support of the State Department, if they don’t have

the support of the diplomatic efforts, they will not get access to the

material that they need, the witnesses they need, the preservation

of the evidence that they need, and they will not be able to do their

work. So, they need your help, or it won’t happen.

I guess my frustration is that, having gone

through this in the debates with the State Department on the

issues of the—in Yugoslavia, unless we are raising these issues directly

with the Sudanese Government through whatever sources we

can—unless we let them know that the preservation of evidence is

going to be required—I understand they’re nervous about those

things, but it will make it extremely difficult to follow through on

this, giving the impression to the Sudanese that this is an issue

that can be negotiated away.

I agree with you on that, but you’ve got to preserve

the record, you’ve got to be—you’ve got to have access in

Sudan. I understand it’s important to interview, in Chad, the victims,

but you also have to be on the ground in the Sudan——

Senator CARDIN . In order to gather——

It is—should be on our agenda, the cooperation

with the ICC.