Mr. Gast, welcome.

It should be pointed out that you brought charts and didn’t refer

to them. I want to—if I’m reading the charts right—I want to compliment

you, because I believe you were appointed in April, is that

not correct?

March?

In March, we were at less than 50-percent capacity

in food, medicine, water, nonfood items, if I read it correctly.

Now, by August we’ll be at 100 percent in everything but nonfood

items. Is that correct?

Well, you and Mr. Gast are to be commended.

I was there in May, when you were probably somewhere in that 80-

percent range of capacity, and recognizing the abject, deplorable

circumstances there, you’re to be complimented on making up that

gap, both of you.

On the question of the four goals for the Khartoum Government,

the fourth one being cooperation in the counterterrorism effort, and

following up on what Senator Corker said, regarding the designation

as a state sponsor of terrorism, isn’t it true—not only is there

not any evidence that they’re cooperating with terrorists, but, in

fact, they were helpful in stopping the flow of some weapons that

were coming through the Sudan into Egypt, later to Gaza, most

recently?

Well, I think it’s important to know, Mr. Chairman

and Senator Lugar, that it is one thing to not have any evidence

of cooperation, but then to have an overt act where, in fact,

they were helping in counterterrorism, begs the question that Senator

Corker asked with regard to the state sponsor of terrorism list.

Are our sanctions counterproductive to our goals? And so, I just

wanted to follow up on that point.

Next, one of the keys to the CPA is for legitimate elections to

take place in Sudan in 2010. I think originally it was scheduled for

February 2010. I know that’s now been pushed back to April 2010,

is that right?

Will it be pushed back any further, or are they

legitimately moving forward with the elections?

Not only if we skip it, but if we have an illegitimate

election; it will ensure that the February 2011 referendum

in the South will be a secession vote, I would think.

So, I commend you on continuing to push on

that as fast as you can.

Last, with regard to what Senator Shaheen was talking about,

I find it interesting that in your other graph over here, of levels

of influence, in the fourth—kind of looks like Dante’s levels in

Hades, but anyway, in your fourth level——

There is the United Nations. I

don’t know if that depicts the level of which their influence is, or

you just put it out there, but it does seem that having been in

Darfur as recently as 2 months ago, having seen what deployment

is there, and seeing the expanse of the Darfur area—I think a lot

of people don’t realize how big the Sudan is; it is huge—we don’t

seem—they don’t seem to have the tactical or the infrastructure

support to carry out the mission that I think the U.N. intends to

have there. Is that the U.N.’s fault, or is that a fault of participating

U.N. nations, in not following through on a U.N. plan?

Well, I didn’t—my statement was not to be

critical of the U.N., per se—I’m not a U.N. basher—but it is to

make an observation that, 15 years ago in Rwanda, a failure to act

in a timely basis to make a difference, a tragedy took place. And

we’re on the cusp of a tragedy again if everything falls down in

Darfur and in the South and with the elections. So, it is critical,

I think, that the U.N. forces, in concert with the African Union, get

the manpower there, but also have the tactical and logistical equipment.

To secure the routes of those women to go get firewood is

going to take the high-tech things you were talking about, as well

as aerial support through at least helicopters, if nothing else.

So, continue to work to push them, because if that thing does fail

in 2011, in the Southern Referendum, or we have a breakdown

before then, it could be a catastrophic situation for Africa, and

really for the whole world.

I appreciate your hard work very much. And,

Mr. Gast, thank you for what you’re doing with the humanitarian

effort.