Mr. Chairman, I’m willing to defer if the majority

leader needs to proceed now. I know he has a very intense

schedule.

Well, go ahead.

Well, Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think it’s

extremely important that this crisis in the Sudan be addressed at

the highest possible level in our government, and therefore I want

to commend you and Senator Biden for holding this hearing today,

and to express to Secretary Powell our appreciation for his coming

to be before us today.

I’m going to yield my time to Senator Corzine, who’s just returned

from the Sudan—he was there just last week. He has some,

I think, extremely helpful perceptions and insights about the situation

there. It’s a matter on which he’s taken a very keen interest,

as we all well know, and I’ll assure my colleagues I’ll go to the end

of the queue as a consequence. Thank you very much.

This is an example of trying to get it to the

highest levels of the government.

Go ahead.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

First, I’d just observe, as long as they don’t oppose it, the resolution

would carry, presumably.

Yes. Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your appearance

this morning and the emphasis you’ve placed on this

issue. I want to put just a few rather specific questions to you.

First of all, are we in a position to assure that the logistical support

that any African Union force would require will be available

to them?

Well, I think it’s very important for us to be

in a position to provide the support if the African Union can

produce a substantially stepped-up force, so that the AU doesn’t

then flounder or falter over the lack of the logistical support which

it requires. It seems to me that’s a responsibility that we should

be in a position to deliver on.

That leads right into my next question, which

is this:

I drew from your testimony this morning that in your view a

number of other countries are not doing what they could to help,

including some in the immediate area. Why not?

It seems to me that we ought to exert every

pressure that we can to assure this participation. Some of it, as

you’ve indicated, was already promised or committed, as I understand

it, but not yet delivered. Others have refrained, but I hope

could be drawn into providing support for the U.N. effort now underway.

I think that’s——

Now, I’m also interested in the conditions in

the refugee camps, which people report are deplorable—there’s apparently

danger of widespread disease, and so forth and so on.

Under whose jurisdiction are these refugee camps?

If that’s the case, why should we have a potential

humanitarian problem, with the conditions in the refugee

camps that will, in fact, result in significant deaths? If the jurisdiction

is in the hands of those who are trying to alleviate the crisis,

then why should the conditions in the camps be such that they constitute

a real threat, human threat?

What can we do to—quickly—to strengthen

that capacity and so that the very camps in which they’re seeking

refuge no longer pose a significant.

That was an extremely important breakthrough,

and that’s why I asked at the outset, Under whose jurisdiction

are the camps and what’s the situation there? Having accomplished that, though, it seems to me this absolutely has to be

made an immediate priority. Both the United States and those in

the international community who have been willing to focus on this

issue must now put on a full-court press, as we would say, to

change the conditions in the camps.

That’s—I guess that’s what I’m pushing

you——

Pushing you and others to do,

because I think it’s a sad state of affairs, if, in fact, the people come

into the camps seeking refuge, but the camps themselves end up

posing a major problem to their life and their health.

Well, what——

Percent of the camps do you not

have access to?

Right.

I understand that problem, and the forces

that are trying to do good are not in a position to control that

situation——

At least not as yet. But in

those——

Where we do control the situation,

it seems to me imperative that it be made absolutely the first

priority. And I would include in that the camps in Chad, as well.

Because, presumably, the Government of

Chad is trying to be helpful in this situation.

You know.

OK.