Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for appearing this morning and your

leadership and focus on this issue.

The chairman noted that I recently was in Africa. As you know,

I was there a couple weeks ago. I was in West Central Africa, primarily

focused on the five countries that represent the Gulf of

Guinea area of West Central Africa. I happened to be in Nigeria

the day that the Nigerian President Obasanjo convened the African

Union conference on the Sudan, and spent about an hour with him

on this issue.

A couple of observations, and then I would like to ask some questions.

One, I think there is some good news overall for the long

term on the African Continent in that true organization such as

the African Union, ECOWAS, you noted what they did, role they

played, continue to play in Liberia, Sierra Leone. There is a recognition,

I suspect a new recognition, not by all, but by a number

of African leaders on the African Continent that these problems, as

the majority leader noted, are African problems. Yes, they affect us

all, and we have some responsibility to help deal with those problems,

but bringing together these coalitions of common interests

and focus through organizations like the African Union and Gulf of

Guinea Commission, ECOWAS, others, we’re starting to see a consolidation

of purpose, of focus, of leadership that we’ve never seen

before.

It’s interesting, the Middle East has had nothing like this, and

that’s part of our problem, as you know so well. But I see that as

some good news, and we should not allow that to get by us in the

wider angle view of what’s happening there.

Now, with that noted and what Senator Corzine was talking to

you about, assistance, certainly lift capability, and when I was in

Angola meeting with the head of the Government of Angola, they

have, as you know, some lift capability. And it’s like everything, it’s

a harnessing of those resources to bring them together to see what

we can do to focus more and more on using those capabilities in

a relevant, real, and timely way.

So I won’t spend my time on that, but I would just echo what

Senator Corzine said. It’s the same thing I heard in my visits with

the leaders of these countries. And I think we’re getting there and

America has a tremendous role to play and they want us to play

a role in that. We have to be careful with that role, as you know,

because our purpose is too easily and often questioned and our motivations

are questioned.

I want to go to the United Nations and your comments about

sanctions. Can you define for this committee where we are with

some of the major players, the 15-member Security Council now,

primarily China, Pakistan, Angola, on the idea of sanctions, where

they are with the tough U.N. resolutions, how far they’re prepared

to go? And if they’re not prepared to go very far, why not?

Yes.

Mr. Secretary, thank you. If I could ask the

chairman for his indulgence to—since you did use some of my time,

Mr. Secretary——

For your narrow parochial interests,

which I’m glad you mentioned, Mr. Secretary, because they are important

and I, at least this United States Senator completely supports

what this agenda is about. But if I could ask just one brief

question, would you explain for the committee, for those watching,

briefly, succinctly, as you always do, what is behind this genocide?

What is the purpose? What’s the reason? I’m not sure we, the

American public, has ever been told or explained to, what is this

all about?