Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary,

thank you for being here.

On June 15, at Chairman Lugar’s request and with the participation

of a lot of the Senators who have already spoken, I chaired a

hearing of the full committee on Sudan. And what we primarily

heard from witnesses who had been there is a request for United

States action. And the action, interestingly, that they specifically

asked was not that we go there, but that we get the United Nations

involved. That is what they thought, on June 15, would make

the most difference.

Within a couple of weeks, I think—maybe three—you were in the

Sudan, and you had gotten the United Nations involved. And as—

I want to join with the other Senators on both sides of the aisle

this morning in saying that your willingness to move quickly on

this has been an enormous help.

You’ve had a lot of specific questions already asked. Let me ask

you to look down the road a little bit with me and talk about security,

and specifically about the African Union.

I was just thinking, as I was listening, how we can quickly shift

our priorities here. Four years ago, we didn’t want many spies.

Today, we wish we had a lot. Four years ago, there was a bipartisan

reluctance to engage in nation-building. Today, we wish we

were better prepared for nation-building, and we have opportunities

for it, it seems, new ones every day. And everywhere we look,

a condition precedent to nation-building is security, whether it’s Afghanistan

elections or whether it’s Iraq or whether it’s Liberia or

whether it’s in Sudan, so that Sudan can take the benefit of the

North-South agreement that’s been worked on for so long.

Now, starting with the African Union, which we’ve talked about

a lot today, as you reflect on your experience—both your military

experience and then your experience now, as Secretary of State—

and recognizing that suddenly we’re now in a different sort of

world, looking down the road 5 years, what should we be thinking

about in this committee and what should we be doing differently

to prepare—to help Africa prepare, and to help the world prepare,

for the opportunity to secure conflicts so that there can be nation building

in places like Sudan? Starting with—well, start with Africa.

Specifically, what can we be doing, and what should we be

thinking about doing, over the next 5 years that we probably

weren’t thinking about doing 2 or 3 years ago?

What’s the level of appropriation that’s——

Thank you. I fully concur with your emphasis

on the soft power. But I think the fact remains, parallel to that,

which you concede, that we’re awfully busy with security issues

right now. And as we’ve gone down the row of Senators, there’s no

one, really, to send—to add to the protection of the monitors in the

Sudan, except the African Union, at the moment. And I assume,

from your answer, that if we were 5 years down the road, and if,

between now and then, we’ve done a good job of helping the African

Union expand its professionalism and train its available troops, or

even in the new European countries where—in Georgia, for example,

where the new President would like to have more United

States aid to train a smaller, but more professional, level of troops

that—would you envision that—as these opportunities for nation building,

which we’d be better prepared to do, come up, that there

would be—it would be appropriate for there to be forces available

from the African Union or even from these—the new European

countries to help——

Provide the security that’s conditioned

to exercise——