Mr. Secretary, welcome. What in your opinion is the relationship

between China and Sudan?

Have they, in your opinion, hindered our efforts

with the United Nations or any other multilateral institution that

we have been working with regarding Sudan?

Is this an area that you noted in your testimony

in reference to working with the various multilateral institutions,

regionalization, your noting of your, I am not certain of the title,

representative in the area, along with the assistant secretary who

is sitting behind you, to try to more fully work with China and

other nations? And in context with that question, how will the assistant

secretary work with your personal representative? And

what will be the relationship, and how will they make adjustments,

especially focusing on what you had talked about in your testimony,

getting more regional effort, not just through the African

Union, but the nine neighbors, China not a neighbor, but very important?

Thank you. You noted a number of times in your

testimony the efforts of the African Union and the progress, I think

would be a fair way to state it, of the African Union. And I would

like to pursue that in my last question.

And by the way, I share your positive sense of direction. And I

have always believed—and I was in Nigeria and Abuja the morning

the Nigerian president convened the African Union conference to

deal with this in August of last year.

The continent of Africa is going to have to equip itself to deal

with its problems. We can support and we can help, but I think

that is much to your point in your testimony and what you have

been about as well over the last few years. And with that in mind,

where are the institutional weaknesses and strengths in your opinion

as this problem in Darfur is going to be with us for a while,

as the African Union takes on more and more of a role, outside of

just the peacekeeping, outside of the military, the security, but the

geopolitical strategic, as well as diplomatic leadership, to address

this problem?