General, thank you so much for not only appearing before us

today but also for the excellent work that you are doing. Since I

am the last person here, I will try to be brief and not delay your

departure. I just wanted to pick up on some themes that Ranking

Member Biden discussed. And I apologize that I missed your initial

testimony due to a conflicting meeting. If I am going over old

ground, please say so.

It sounds like there is an assessment that the AU forces over

time can be an extraordinarily valuable asset for the entire continent. It also appears that their immediate presence is having

some salutary effect in at least witnessing what is taking place

and, as a consequence, preventing some of the more outrageous activities

from occurring.

It also sounds, though, that because of just limited troop levels

and capacity that the AU is not in a position to either provide ongoing

protection in this vast region to many Sudanese who are still

in their villages or outside of settlements. A corollary of this is that

if we ever wanted to move the internally displaced persons back to

their homes, they would continue to be vulnerable.

There has been talk about increasing the levels of AU troops to

12,000. Is that feasible in any reasonable period of time? If not,

what is your response, and what is your military judgment, with

respect to the possibility of blue helmeting troops to get additional

troops there?

So is it your judgment, then, that it is something

that would be useful, if we had the resources to do it?

Right. Along those same lines, and let me broaden

the lens here for a second, you know, we have a specific problem

in Darfur, in Sudan. But as you are sadly aware, there are a lot

of other potential hot spots throughout the Continent of Africa. One

of the things that I am interested in is what lessons we have

learned from a military perspective in terms of how we might be

able to trigger early warning systems in Africa, and inject ourselves

in a constructive way prior to things getting completely out

of control? How might NATO or the U.S. European Command play

a role in conflict resolution in advance of the kinds of severe civil

war situations that we are seeing?

Thank you very much, General.

I would love at some point, Mr. Chairman, to explore this question

further and get some specifics in terms of what is effective,

what is not——

——and what that might mean in terms of our

ongoing engagement with the continent. I appreciate your appearance

here.