Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you

for hosting this hearing. I really appreciate you taking it on and

having a hearing on what I think is a very important foreign policy

issue for us, our relationship with Sudan.

I am glad to see two good friends. Mr. Winter is the gentleman

who first took me into the Sudan and introduced me to the topic,

so I appreciate seeing you here as well.

I was not able to hear your testimony and some of the questions,

so what I ask may be repetitive. And if you will please put up with

that, I would appreciate that, because I do have some issues I want

to raise.

I have heard consistently from people that they are appreciative

of the Danforth work, of what has been taking place, but they are

concerned that the cease-fire in the Nuba Mountains area has allowed

the prosecution of the war to take place more aggressively

by the Government of Sudan in other areas of the country, so that

it has had this positive effect in one area and a substantially negative

effect in other areas. Is that accurate, and can we stop that?

Can we pressure the Sudanese Government

to, you know, not move troops from one area to another and start

attacking there? Have we been raising that with the Government

of Sudan?

Roger, do you have a comment on this?

OK. What it appears—this is a view from

some distance away. It appears as if the Sudanese Government is

doing a smart thing from their perspective in participating with us

on the war on terrorism, and helping in some aspects of it.

Is this being done just to slow our focus down on helping the people

throughout the country, so that we do not focus on the Government

of Sudan? Because here is a terrorist regime, by our determination,

by State Department determination. Here is a slave state

that continues to allow slavery to occur in that country. Here is

where Osama bin Laden came from and, arguably, probably still

has assets or his henchmen still have assets, in the Sudan.

Are they helping us a little and getting away with a lot as a result

of that?

I just hope down the road—I appreciate

their cooperation on counter-terrorism issues. I am glad they are

doing it. But the rest, as you note, Mr. Winter, continues unabated.

I held in my arms yesterday a 2-year-old girl from the Sudan

whose mother had been a slave, had died. At 18 months of age, she

weighed 12 pounds, had been adopted by a Canadian family, and

it just keeps going on.

I would hope that while they are helping us in our strategic focus

right now in the war on terrorism, which is a very positive thing

that they are doing, that the rest of this has to change. And this

is a chance for the Government of Sudan to change and to mend

its way. And if they do not, I hope we do not lose focus on these

horrific human rights abuses that just continue.

I mean, I understand the near term objective. I also understand

that there are millions of people that are continuing to suffer greatly

under some of the most inhumane conditions that exist anywhere

in the world today.

And I hope we do not lose that focus on a long-term basis, that

‘‘You may work with us now on this, and we are appreciative of

that. You have got to change your ways on these other things.’’

And share it with the Government of

Sudan?

How do they respond to that?

I think if we are a year or two from now

and we are in the same situation, a little bit of cooperation on

counter-terrorism, but slavery continues, they continue to be a terrorist

state, they continue to treat their own population the way

that they are, that a number of people are going to want to push—

certainly I will—a much more aggressive stance for us toward the

Government of Sudan.

And I think we cannot let them just kind of buy off with a little

bit of cooperation the horrible agenda of what they are doing to so

many of their people.

I just feel, to me, they have a golden opportunity.

And they could or they appear to be blowing it, and not reforming

the system.

I appreciate the work of both of you. I know each of you fairly

well. I know you are hard on this subject, that you want to see the

Sudanese people living free. And so I appreciate your long-term

commitment to the Sudan and to the people there that have suffered

so much.

Mr. Chairman, again I really appreciate you holding this hearing.

You did not have to do that, and I appreciate you doing it.