

And we are now ready for the public. Are there any members from the general public who wish to make a statement, a comment, raise a question, provide an answer? I guess not.

MS. HOWARD: May I say just one thing?

VICE CHAIRMAN PAPADIMITRIOU: Yes?

MS. HOWARD: I actually lived in China from 1981 to 1982 and --

VICE CHAIRMAN PAPADIMITRIOU: Would you sit down and give us your name, please?

MS. HOWARD: Sure. My name is Elizabeth Howard, and I have been to two of your hearings now. I came to one in December and am here now today, obviously. I work for a law firm named Powell Goldstein, but I am speaking more from my personal views.

I just want to make sure that when you are reviewing all of the information and statistics on China and Japan, which often are singled out at these hearings, that their very different cultures are considered, in terms of the way we look at them.

I think Nicholas Lardy brought up a good point, which was that Germany may have more IPR violations than China. I think it's illustrative that

sometimes we single out Asia, sometimes China, which is extremely different from the United States. And the trade, large trade deficits give us a little more ammunition to focus on China, Japan, and maybe single them out when they are so different.

Sometimes that I think is more the issue that we're talking about, then, and our misunderstandings culturally, politically, strategically, than just pure statistics of we run a big deficit with this country versus that country.

Anyway, I just wanted to say for the record, to just make sure that we're also -- when you look at trade deficits and you single out countries; in particular, Asia, that you're aware of cultural sensitivities in this exercise.

VICE CHAIRMAN PAPADIMITRIOU: Thank you very much.

Anyone else?

(No response.)