Mr. REUSS. The Asian Development Bank was created in August 1966, and now includes membership from 32 countries, 19 of them Asian, and 13, including ourselves, from outside the region.

This Asian Development Bank represents the first such institution in which the United States participates which has been created by the initiative of the countries in the region itself.

The proposal contained in H.R. 13217 calls for our participation in the establishment of special funds of which the U.S. share would be not in excess of $200 million, to be lent on concessional terms within the region for such programs as agriculture, Mekong River development, transportation and communications, and other priority areas as may be determined subsequently.

This bill provides that the U.S. contribution to this special fund shall represent a minority contribution compared to that made by the other contributing countries in the aggregate and that the utilization of our contribution shall be conducted in such a way that our balance-of-payments situation is fully protected.

We will first hear from Mr. Black and then from the other members of the panel.

STATEMENT OF HON. EUGENE R. BLACK, SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT ON ASIAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. BLACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the committee.

It is an honor and a privilege to testify before this distinguished committee in support of the President's request for an authorization of $200 million for special funds to be administered by the Asian Development Bank in support of regional programs in Asia.

In my remarks this morning on the President's request I would like——

Mr. REUSS. Without objection, your entire statement will be received and made a part of the record, and you may, therefore, continue either to read it, elaborate on it, summarize, or proceed in any way you like.

Mr. BLACK. In my remarks this morning on the President's request I would like to discuss three major topics:

First, the purpose and programs which the U.S. contributions to the Asian Bank under this authorization are envisaged to serve;

Second, the encouraging growth of regional cooperation in Asia which these programs will sustain and accelerate; and

Third, the terms and conditions under which U.S. funds appropriated under this authorization would be made available.

PURPOSE OF $200 MILLION AUTHORITY

The legislation before this committee authorizes the contribution of up to $200 million, which we expect to make available over a 4-year period, to the Asian Development Bank for the U.S. share of special funds in support of regional programs in Asia—in priority areas such as agriculture, communications, and transport, and development of the Mekong River Basin. Aside from these three fields, it is envisaged that a part of these funds would also be available for multi-