Ms. Jackson Lee:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Secretary Burns, what an enormously important responsibility

that you have, and welcome. Let me suggest that whatever the diversity

of opinion on this committee, I think none of us will concede

the point that there is a global war, if you will, on terror. Terror

confronts countries other than the United States, and we should be

unified against that terrible undermining of our processes of government.

In 2004, Osama bin Laden said that his intent was to bleed the

United States into bankruptcy. It may not be directly related to the

question of Iran as we speak, but it does say that there will be economic

efforts to undermine our country as well as physical acts.

In the sense of Iran, they seem to be the kind of wording or

words offered from the leadership of Iran that speak to either violence

and/or the question of undermining the global energy market.

So let me just ask some pointed questions as quickly as I possibly

can, and if you can be succinct.

Do we have a date of which we intend to attack Iran?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I will make it clear after you have answered

that that I am completely opposed to a military offense against

Iran on the basis and evidence of the actions in Iraq, but you have

answered that you are completely committed.

What is the status of what I understand was reported recently

in the newspapers of suggestions by the administration to begin

some discussions with Iran, I believe on their nuclear program?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And so you want a—the suspension would be

based upon a declaration by the President of Iran? Or how is the

suspension to be articulated?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And I understand that. And is that a statement

to the United Nations or a public statement of suspension or

a documentation of suspension?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. All right. So there is an action from an international

body that would have to come about?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. What kind of global efforts are we joining in

helping to promote the democratic forces in Iran? That includes the

strong middle class and other resistance movements.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me move quickly to the energy sector. I

think one of the my colleagues mentioned that the Iran Sanctions

Act has been in place for 7 years, and I understand the answer

might have been that we have not charged one country for any violation.

That violation is based upon investment. What about violations

based upon purchases? Is that covered under the Iran Sanctions

Act?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I would be interested in a

modification of that legislation, which I would like to review, as to

why it is not purchases.

With respect to the energy sector, what is the ability of Iran to

destabilize what is already a destabilized market as it relates to

the enormous amount of foreign imports that United States now

engages in, 70 percent? What is Iran’s role in that? And what are

we doing, as a Government, to be able to overcome that?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And they can destabilize it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the chairman. I thank the witness.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I would.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I just want to quickly, Mr. Secretary—H. Res.

1310 is the legislation that I have that asks for the release of religious

prisoners. It talks about the interest in the violation of

human rights and asks for a diplomatic envoy.

You are, obviously, engaged in discussions. Just give me, quickly,

a sense of the efforts made by the United Nations, by the United

States, and whether or not, if you engaged in negotiations, that you

will have as one of the issues beyond nuclear the release of religious

prisoners, discussion of human rights and the viability—you

know, we send an envoy though Eritrea and Ethiopia that obviously

don’t represent Iran, but we had one there. What is the viability

of those elements?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, if you would just yield for a moment, I will yield

to you for those questions.

But, Mr. Chairman, I want to take personal privilege to acknowledge

Soo Jung, who is in the room, who is with the U.S. Congress-

Korean National Assembly Exchange Program. And she has been

selected by the National Assembly to represent them at the State

Department. And she is going to be joined by my staff, who will

travel to Korea to participate in this program as well. So Soo Jung

is here.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much.

Let me try to take up Mr. Paul’s question. And using your language,

which is you qualified you are not an expert but your understanding

on a blockade is naval ships. And I think Mr. Paul was

trying to probe language that suggested the stopping of the ingress

and egress of goods going back and forth.

So let’s try to be as specific as possible on your understanding

of what a blockade that includes naval, military assistance. Does

the United States now have a date to engage in a blockade or a

blockade to stop the ingress and egress of any goods?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And you then followed up by qualifying yourself

again that all options are on the table. How do you explain

that to the American people who unfortunately have the history of

the Iraq war, when the administration indicated they would go to

the U.N. and they would use the resolution to continue to negotiate,

to send the IAEA, and then all of a sudden a declaration of

war was made, many of us believing it was unconstitutional? But

just to give you the backdrop, then what does that mean when all

options—and I am hearing you talk about diplomacy—are still on

the table?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. So North Korea is not perfect. I believe that

is an example.

But let me go to the question that I asked, the special envoy, the

question of human rights and religious abuses, and whether that

is very much a part of your negotiation or would be a part of it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Are we pressuring to have religious detainees

and those detained under human rights abuses, et cetera, to be released?

I mean, that should be part our message. The world welcomes

that.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I commend you to H. Res. 1310. The other

question is the envoy concept that we have used in a number of negotiations

around the world. Your thoughts on that?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Just generally—don’t speak to the legislation—

the concept of envoy?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Okay. Let me just finish again by trying to

probe the energy scenario. What efforts is the Government making

to ensure the containing of Iran’s ability to disrupt the world energy

market? Are we engaging OPEC? Are there policies the Department

of Energy may be engaging as they sit around the Cabinet

table with the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, about

the potential of Iran using energy, in essence, in an untoward, destructive

manner?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Do you have any information about what Iran

might be doing prospectively with their energy resources?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. One quick question. Is there any manner in

which we would consider nuclear civil uses for Iran? Would it have

to be when they gave up or adhered to all resolutions imagined,

would you consider that? Just a yes or no.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much.