Ms. Lee:

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me thank you for this

very important hearing.

And thank you, Ambassador Burns, for being here.

I for one believe, of course, that if you really believe in disarmament

and nonproliferation, then we must find ways to work

with countries to abandon nuclear weapons programs for any purpose

other than for peaceful purposes, including Iran. But we have

got to remember also that we are a nuclear-armed country, and we

are about ready to enter a nuclear deal with India, which I oppose.

And so our broader policies toward nuclear weapons and nonproliferation

must also be seriously addressed.

Oftentimes there are unintended consequences of measures that

we pass here, and while I respect Mr. Ackerman’s real commitment

to disarmament and nonproliferation and to deal with the Iranian

nuclear program, H. Con. Res. 362—and I listened to his response

with regard to the fact that it does not explicitly authorize a naval

blockade, but I am certain that, as the resolution says, prohibiting

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the export of all refined petroleum products could allow—mind you,

could allow—the stopping of ships on the high seas. And also I

think it sends the wrong message.

The resolution also prohibits the international movement of all

Iranian officials not involved in negotiating the suspension of Iran’s

nuclear program, yet many, some on this committee, but many, including

five former U.S. Secretary of States, have called for the

United States to open talks with Iran to find common ground to resolve

differences on many issues, such as on Iraq, which we have

a very serious involvement in, and also Iran’s nuclear program and

other issues.

Now, I believe you said in your remarks that Iran poses serious

challenges to the United States, which isn’t the same as posing a

threat to our vital interests. But either one, within the context of

H. Res. 362, how do we engage Iran on a variety of issues such as

Iraq if there is a prohibition of the movement of all Iranian officials

not involved in the suspension of Iran’s nuclear program?

Also, I would like for you to clarify the administration’s position

regarding the National Intelligence Estimate, which found that

Iran had abandoned its covert nuclear weapons program in 2003.

You said earlier it could—one of the items in the report was that

it could restart it at any time. Well, has it been restarted yet?

And finally, what is your take on our policy toward Iran and how

that is affecting the price of gas at the pump?

Thank you very much.

Ms. LEE. Yes.

Ms. LEE. Reclaiming my time, let me ask the Ambassador, sure,

could you answer Mr. Ackerman’s question? But also I would just

like to add to that while I don’t read it as explicitly calling for a

declaration of war or a blockade, that the unintended consequences

of this could be and probably would be, if, in fact, we did prohibit

the export to Iran of all refined petroleum products, a blockade. So

you can answer the question to Mr. Ackerman and to myself.

Thank you.

Ms. LEE. But what if you are prohibited from doing that, as this

resolution would require, unless you are in discussions with regard

to the suspension of Iran’s nuclear program?

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Ms. LEE. Mr. Ackerman had a little bit of time on this, Mr.

Chairman. May I have 30 more seconds to get his response, please?

Ms. LEE. Thank you

Ms. LEE. Would the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. Would the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. I just yielded to Mr. Ackerman.

Ms. Lee. It is about 31⁄2 minutes. Thank you.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

Ms. LEE. I wanted to hear the response from the Ambassador to

my question, but also just conclude with a statement, which is a

question with regard to the resolution, I believe, and you can say

no if that is what you believe, but I think that the President could

regard this resolution as calling for a blockade. And he wouldn’t be

wrong, I don’t believe, in doing that if he read between the lines

in terms of the prohibition of the export to Iran of all refined petroleum

products. Thank you.

Ms. LEE. Thank you.

And I thank the gentleman and Mr. Chairman and our ranking

member for yielding.