Mr. Miller:

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Ambassador, you just said that there were strong desires

among younger Iranians for more of a connection to the world. Before

the Iraq invasion, many in the West, many experts on Iran believed

that there was a strong democracy movement in Iran, and

there was a real prospect for reform coming from within Iran.

Most think that the Iraq invasion has set that back, but there

are some democratic forms in Iran. Elections, obviously not elections

we would consider free and fair, but Iranians still appear to

have used their vote in those elections to express discontent.

What kinds of forces are there still? What kinds of forces are

there for reform and democracy in Iran? How would you assess the

prospects of reform coming from within? And how can we encourage

that?

Mr. MILLER. Ambassador, you said that human rights conditions

had deteriorated in Iran in the last 10 years. Iran gets a lot of our

attention: Ahmadinejad’s belligerent rhetoric, their uranium reprocessing

or their uranium enrichment or reprocessing, their refusal

to allow inspections or otherwise cooperate with IAEA, support

of Hezbollah and Shiite militia in Iraq, on and on. But human

rights abuses have not gotten much attention, and deteriorating

human rights conditions.

What has been the form of those human rights abuses? What

kind of human rights abuses have there been? Who are the victims

of them? And what are we doing about it and what can we do

about it, particularly what can we do multilaterally?

Mr. MILLER. Ms. Woolsey mentioned earlier that most do not

really regard Ahmadinejad as being in charge. He is the most visible

figure. He attracts a lot of attention—he tries to attract a lot

of attention. But clerics and others are really more in charge. And

although they may not be attractive to us, they are grownups, they

are rational actors. They can be negotiated with, and they will not

do irrational things.

Is that your sense?