Mr. Rohrabacher:

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me note that nonproliferation as a principle is a very good

idea, just for the record. And let us note that nonproliferation and

attempts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons technology to

unstable and belligerent regimes like that in Iran is a very good

idea and a very good goal. And I understand the hard work you

have put into this, and I want to thank you and those of the administration

who have been doing their best in a very frustrating

situation.

Let me just note, Mr. Chairman, that 10 years ago when this nuclear

facility began being planned and was under construction,

began construction in Iran, I went to the Clinton administration—

and I might add in the beginning of the Bush administration as

well—and pleaded with high-level people in the administration,

and, Mr. Burns, I believe you are aware of this, asking our Government

to provide Russia with an alternative to developing this facility

with the Iranians. And both the Clinton administration and the

Bush administration in the early days, nothing was done. The only

approach toward Russia was the stick approach, which we are

going to put sanctions against you, we are going to do bad things

against you unless you stop your involvement in this nuclear facility.

And this was at a time when Russia was in an economic crisis.

We could very well have averted this showdown that we are

headed to simply by providing Russia an alternative way of building

nuclear facilities, for example in Malaysia or Turkey or other

countries that would not have been seen as threats to the United

States or threats to the Western World. So unfortunately, the position

we are in now, I think, could be traced back to a lack of ability

to act a long time ago. That does not necessarily mean we shouldn’t

act now. And again, you are in a very bad situation trying to make

the best of it.

Let me ask you this about the Iranians and the Russians: As far

as we know right now, if the Russians simply pulled out of what

they were doing in Iran, it would not change the Iranians’ ability

to move forward with what they have already got; is that right? I

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mean, they could actually continue moving forward toward the production

of a nuclear weapon even without the help of Russia at this

point; is that correct?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. So we have actually gone beyond the point of

no return with the Russians. Let’s just note this: What we have

said here is that China has provided nuclear weapons capability to

Pakistan. And we have to remember that is part of the equation,

because it is Pakistan, apparently, that has provided this technology

to Iran and Korea; is that correct?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. All right. Thank you.

And it is my understanding that that is the situation. And perhaps

we should try to be a little tougher with China. And your testimony

suggests that perhaps that would be something that we

should focus on as well.

Now, in terms of the actual solution to this, I would hope that

we don’t come to the point where we just—where destroying that

facility with the use of a military operation is the last alternative.

And I would hope that we don’t ever come to that. But I would suggest

that the idea that we are doing our best to offer alternatives

to the Iranian people, alternatives to the incompetent and corrupt

and radical regime that now controls Iran, I think that is one of

the most important alternatives that we have in terms of our

course of action. And I would hope that we are doing that with

vigor and as quietly as we can. But I hope that. And I understand

that may be our country’s policy, and I hope it is.

Mr. Chairman, I think that this administration is doing its best,

and I would like to congratulate you and the ranking member for

trying to be cooperative on this very serious challenge that we face

with Iran.