Mr. Tancredo:

Mr. TANCREDO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your patience.

And there is an issue I am told has not come up yet, and in order

to not be redundant I will focus on that. And because I was gone

for part of this time, I don’t know if other things have been dealt

with.

But the issues of the MEK and the extent to which the State Department’s

position vis-a`-vis the MEK might be influenced by the

fact that they were just recently removed from the terrorist list in

Great Britain as a result of an action that I think was taken by

the court there.

I fully recognize that the history of this particular organization

is what some might refer to as spotty, in terms of its relationship

with the United States. But I think, in the past several years, it

has proven to be a reliable source of information for us about some

of the things that are happening in Iran. And it does seem to me

that they can be helpful in our efforts to try and learn more about

exactly what is going on there because, of course, their language,

their culture, their understanding of their country.

I also understand and have been told that there is little support

for the MEK within Iran, and that certainly may be true, but it is

not relevant to my concerns about whether or not we can use them.

And I am saying that because I notice that the reaction almost

every single time to any attempt to take them off of the terrorist

watch list, the reaction by the mullahs is always dramatic, and

they are very, very desirous of retaining the MEK on the terrorist

watch list, which makes me wonder why, in a way, and why are

they so afraid of it, why are they so upset by its presence and by

the fact that we are providing the protection, essentially, at Camp

Ashraf, which is, again, a kind of an oxymoronic position for us to

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be in. On the one hand, they are on this list; on the other, we provide

this protection.

So the fact that now a court in England has ruled that they

should be taken off the list there, has that had any impact at all

on the decision-making process within the State Department about

the MEK? And would you consider the possibility of moving in that

direction? As I say, if nothing else it will certainly get the attention

of the people that run Iran.

Mr. TANCREDO. I understand. Well, I do hope you will take that

into consideration even if it is not in a formal way. And, as I say,

recognize the fact that, in the past, it appears to me anyway, they

had provided some valuable information, and that might be a

source of other valuable information in terms of their understanding

of the culture and the language. And it just seems like

they could be of help to us.

And I have no other questions.