Ms. Woolsey:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Timing is everything. What a perfect day for this hearing. And

thank you for being here, Mr. Ambassador.

There is nobody here who cannot attest to the misdeeds of some

of Iran’s leaders, and their quest for a nuclear weapon is a huge

concern for any peace-loving nation, and we all know that. The

statements that have been made by President Ahmadinejad are inexcusable.

This Congress has repeatedly condemned his inflammatory

remarks. In fact, I am not even sure that he is the real

leader of the country. He is the President, but the clerics are the

leaders, from what I understand. But, you know, as the saying

goes, you negotiate with your enemies; you don’t have to negotiate

with your friends. And this isn’t about liberals or conservatives or

Democrats or Republicans, it is just a fact, we need to negotiate

with our enemies.

And former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger urged an open

but cautious line of communication with Iran. He said one has to

talk with adversaries. Even the right-of-center paper, the Washington

Times, wrote an op-ed stating that negotiations are the only

way for the international community to guarantee that Iran maintain

its nuclear program for civilian use, while also preventing another

disastrous war that will undoubtedly further destabilize the

Middle East. It will destabilize the world.

Knowing all of this, Mr. Ambassador, and given our diplomacy

to date, if there has been any, has been hard-nosed, which you said

we needed to pursue hard-nosed diplomacy, and that hard-nosed

diplomacy has not been successful or we wouldn’t be where we are

today talking about getting even more hard-nosed, so I ask you:

How can we show Iran and the international community that we

are dedicated to diplomacy; we are dedicated to negotiations above

military action, above starving innocent Iranian people, and above

removing the oil reserves from the international market, which will

27

affect us drastically? So how can we build their trust? And we can’t

just tell them they have got to change. How can we help them trust

the United States of America?

Ms. WOOLSEY. So how are the Iranian people hearing this message?

Through Ahmadinejad? I mean, who is delivering this message

to them?

Ms. WOOLSEY. So what is the Iranian response to our President

seeking over $400 million to escalate an operation to destabilize the

country’s religious leadership? I mean, what is the average Iranian

citizen’s response to that?