In the interest of time I will begin my

opening statement, and turn the gavel back over to Chairman

Sherman upon his arrival.

As the IAEA recently reported, Iran’s nuclear weapons program

is booming, while the world’s opportunity to prevent this horrifying

prospect shrinks every day. Every day we debate options and argue

about tactics, the Iranians are enriching uranium and working out

the secrets to opening a massive cascade of centrifuges. Once that

happens, the world will be a very different and much more dangerous

place.

How did we come to such a predicament? To be blunt, 5 years

ago we picked the wrong oil-producing, terrorist-sponsoring, weapons-

proliferating, ultra-violent, authoritarian Persian Gulf state

starting with the letter I on which to focus our attention. And ever

since then, Iraq has been an enormous distraction from our most

pressing national security interests.

Only recently has American policy begun to reflect the urgency

of the Iranian nuclear threat. To be successful, or at least to have

a chance at being successful, our Iran policy must be comprehensive.

We need bigger carrots, and we need bigger sticks. We need

a credible diplomatic and political alternative to offer the Iranians

through negotiations, and we need to simultaneously utilize every

means we have of applying pressure.

Everything must remain on the table. Maintaining Iranian uncertainty

about the prospect of United States military action is the

best way to ensure that force will actually not be necessary. Likewise,

we have to continue to increase the economic and political

course of Iranian proliferation efforts.

Fortunately, the international debate about sanctions is effectively

over. The Iranians have been so outrageous, so obnoxious, so

defiant that the U.N. Security Council is now debating what kind

of additional sanctions to impose, not whether to sanction at all. To

be clear, sanctions are necessary; but alone, they are not sufficient.

Sanctions work only when they are part of a multi-faceted policy,

and when they are maximized in both their scope and their application.

At this point I ask unanimous consent to put the rest of my

statement in the record. Seeing no objection, it is so ordered.

Now you have got the gavel.