Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is good to

see you, Ambassador Burns.

I think this is a very important issue that we are dealing with,

and I think there tends to be some difference of opinion on members

of the committee about whether there should be negotiations

and discussions with Iran or not. I think that is probably one of

the key differences.

I think we all agree that Iran is a terrible threat. I think that

we need to deal with it. I do recall that back in 1941 President Roosevelt

called Japan after the infamous attack on the United States

and its partners, the axis, and they were the three countries that

we had to defend ourselves against. We hear the same term about

the axis of evil used with Iran, North Korea and Iraq.

I think that we are finding ourselves in another similar situation.

However, we are negotiating with North Korea, and we have

people say we shouldn’t negotiate with Iran.

I think that one of our big problems is that we have inconsistency

in our program. I hear of us having problems with PRC. We

will put——

Okay—Iran on financial things, but you have countries

like China that will then lend them money where we continue

to give China all of our business. This inconsistency we really have

to straighten out.

Thank you very much.

Ambassador Burns, I, too, agree with Representative Smith that

I think we missed an opportunity by not participating in the

Human Rights Council at the U.N., a certainly far from perfect

group to say the least.

There was a move, as you know, to modify and change it, and

there were some changes where not only regional groupings voted

for members, but it had to get a certain percentage of people from

outside the region, which was a major change because of that influence

outside the regions—the regions were kind of tightly knit—

and a number of other suggestions to attempt to change the terrible

image that the Council had.

I think that when you talk about the four bad hearings they had

on Israel, and there were one or two others that were held by the

total Council, by us being a member of the Council it would seem

to me that we would have an opportunity to try to change what

went on. You can’t change it from outside.

I just can’t understand the rationale for us totally rejecting not

only at the initial change which was made a year or so ago, but

for the new round of countries where they are even going to expand

it by another 15 or so countries or more to expand the Council, and

we once again are refusing to participate.

Could you explain to me how we do better by not trying to influence

the decisions? It is not like it is a Democrat, a Republican and

a third party. I mean, you are either in or you are not. You don’t

even have a Ross Perot. How do we deal with that, sir?

That is my point. If we had been in there, if we had

been a part of the discussion leading up to what is going to be debated,

I just still believe that we could have had some kind of influence

in perhaps changing the tone, changing the tenor, changing

the focus, at least modifying, perhaps finding their——

Everyone on the Council is not in support of what the Council

did, but if there is no strong advocate for that those weaker countries

that are looking for some leadership, they roll over because

the others are so dominant, and there is no buffer, no counterbalance

to that influence.

My time is going to expire. As you see, the chairman hits the

gavel quickly so let me let you have another second or two of what

you want to say on that.

I do have another quick question about the apparent change in

the administration shift toward regional talks, which I support the

fact that Iran and Syria could be in these talks. I don’t know why

we made it so clear that we will not talk to Iran while they may

be sitting next to us at some coffee break. You know, that is where

a lot of breakthroughs are made.

Could you explain whether there is a shift? Should this be considered

a shift or not? If so, what seemed to change since the President’s

speech on January 10 where he said he didn’t want to talk

to Iran about Iraq, although I think we should talk to anybody that

we can to try to see if we can come to some solution?