Thank you very much.

First and foremost I would like to identify myself with the opening

remarks of the chairman, Chairman Lantos, and Ranking

Member Ros-Lehtinen. I think that they both reflect the commitment

of the people in this committee.

I would just like to raise this as a point as we move forward

today, and that is certainly Iran poses a threat. I am with everybody

so far in everything that has been said about getting tough.

We need to do that. I certainly don’t believe we should go into negotiations

until after they have promises to at least cease developing

their nuclear program while we talk.

Let me note that it is disturbing to me that the threat posed by

Iran seems to be being used as an excuse not to hold Sunnis, Sunni

regimes like the Saudis and others, accountable for their support

in the mayhem that is going on in Iraq. I mean, most of these

bombs that are going off are Sunni bombs killing Shiites. They are

not coming from Iran, and we should hold the Saudis accountable

for this.

It seems to me the administration seems to be tilting away to try

to focus attention on Iran right now when we should be holding the

Saudi and other Sunni regimes accountable for what their wrongdoing

is.

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador Burns, again thank you for your diligence and hard

work. I give you a hard time sometimes, but I give everybody a

hard time sometimes.

I want you to know that we are very grateful for the effort put

out by you and the members of the State Department to try to, as

you say, bring peace to this troubled region in a way that is consistent

with our national security interests.

I would like to ask you a specific question and then more of a

general question about is it the MEK? They call themselves in Iraq

Mujahideen, I guess. Some people believe that they are a force that

should be supported in their efforts against the Iranian Government.

They are Iranian. Some people believe that they used to be

a Marxist-Leninist group and have actually killed American soldiers

in the past and should be looked at as a terrorist organization.

What is our position on that?

And we don’t see a change that would justify

our changing that policy?

All right. Thank you. About my original

point, and again let me note that I am in no way trying to soften

the outrage that we have about the Iranian Government providing

explosive devices to those elements in Iraq that are killing American

soldiers. We need to address that, and I am very supportive

of the administration’s efforts.

It seems to me that we have such an extraordinary focus on that

as compared to not holding accountable the Saudis and some of the

other Sunni regimes that have been so involved with providing at

least financing for the terrorist explosions that have killed so many

thousands of Iraqi citizens.

Can you explain that to me why we have not held or don’t seem

to have held the Saudis publicly accountable while we just focus on

the Iranians? Not that I don’t want to hold the Iranian’s feet to the

fire. Don’t get me wrong. I agree with your outrage on that, but

shouldn’t we put a little focus on that other, on the Saudis and the

Sunni regimes as well?

Mr. Chairman, might I suggest, and this is

with all due respect to our witness. I think this committee should

investigate the Sunni connection to the mass killings that go on in

Iraq because obviously the administration doesn’t believe that

there is a connection between some of these regimes and the violence

that is going on.

Okay. I would just add in closing there is

ample evidence. I am not here to have a diatribe about this or

something, but there is a Web site of Saudis that have lost their

lives in Iraq while fighting us, a Web site of martyrs, lists of martyrs,

hundreds of names.

To suggest that these very wealthy Sunni interests are not financing

this insurgency I think is not going to help us bring it to

an end, but I want to congratulate you for all the hard work that

you are doing on Israeli-Palestinian issues, the Lebanon issues that

you have raised. Of course, we wish you all success.