Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are here to focus on the enormous threat posed by Iran, a

threat not just to the United States, Iraq, Israel and the region,

but a compelling threat to the world.

President Ahmadinejad’s tirades about Israel and his denial of

the Holocaust reveal his bigotry, his unseemly hate. Thankfully he

is not the only voice, but at present day he is the dominant one.

We are fortunate to have such a skilled and accomplished and

determined diplomat in Ambassador Nick Burns, and we welcome

you again.

On another front, Mr. Chairman, just let me bring to the attention

of the committee that Vietnam, obviously not the subject of today’s

hearing, but nevertheless this happened just a few hours ago,

having recently gained another step in United States economic cooperation

has instituted a new wave of crackdowns and arrests.

One of the lawyers that I met when I was in Vietnam recently,

a man by the name of Di who is a modern day human rights activist

equivalent to the people that we saw in Eastern Europe, was

arrested, as was Father Ly and so many others in Vietnam.

We need to take this up with the committee. It is reason for

grave concern that Vietnam is now turning back to its old ways of

repressions and arrests.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador Burns, again thank you for your extraordinary leadership

and for your testimony today. Let me just ask a couple of

questions.

One of them, you urged patience vis-a`-vis diplomacy, and I think

members on both sides of the aisle certainly would echo the importance

of patience particularly with a country like Iran.

Maybe you might want to speak to the issue, and you pointed out

some of this in your testimony, of the indigenous dissent. There are

large numbers of people, and it is even manifesting itself at the

ballot box. Rafsanjani did extremely well. Not that he is the end

all/be all of a moderate, but he certainly is somebody with whom

I think we could deal much better with obviously than

Ahmadinejad.

The idea of waiting out the local intolerant leader. You know, we

certainly did it with the Soviet Union. We did it with the Warsaw

Pact. We have done it before where there were nuclear missiles, in

this case the potential of nuclear weapons aimed against us, and

it seems to me the diplomatic route is always the best route and

war is absolutely the last resort.

Secondly, the ranting and ravings of President Ahmadinejad with

regards to threatening Israel and its demise certainly, it seems to

me, rises to the level of a violation of the Genocide Convention.

My question there is since the IAEA and other elements of the

United Nations Security Council, being the most important, are all

focused on Iran, what have we done to try to get the genocide panel

of experts, the implementing treating body people, to look at the

statements that have been made by the President and to take action?

You know, the Genocide Convention talks about threat or the actual

implementation in destroying of people in whole or in part. He

is talking about the complete annihilation of the entirety of a people.

It seems to me it is prima facie evidence of a violation of the

Genocide Convention and ought to be engaged there.

I would say in like manner, the Human Rights Council needs to

be engaged. I know we decided not to run. I think that is a mistake.

Having said that, we certainly have friends who should be

bringing the issue of Iran front and center at the Human Rights

Council if that body is to have any legitimacy and credibility at all.

Finally with regards to the weapons that are being made in Iran

and used against our soldiers and civilians in Baghdad and

throughout Iraq, on one of my most recent visits in September I

was struck by the statements that I heard that virtually all of the

IEDs that are doing terrible damage and death to our soldiers are

being made in Iran.

It seems to me that when Maliki meets with Ahmadinejad, when

there is any kind of contact with the Iranians, at the front of that

discussion obviously nuclear weapons pose a potential threat. IEDs

are a current threat that is literally killing and maiming many of

our soldiers. That should be at the centerpiece of our negotiations

as well.

Any comments you might have along those lines?

Will you initiate with the——