Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to welcome

Ambassador Burns. We look forward to your testimony.

I am very pleased to join with the Chair, Chairman Lantos, as

he expressed various strategies for dealing with Iran and the sanctions,

and I would hope that military options are on the bottom of

the list and maybe not on the list at all.

I have an issue that has been mentioned by all the other people

who preceded me, and that is we understand from Ambassador

Holbrook, who was here last week, that the United States would

consider and the State Department agreed to participate in a series

of gatherings for Iraq’s neighbors, which would include Iran and

Syria, but all of a sudden they have backed away from that plan

and backed away from conducting bilateral meetings with the Iranians

at this gathering or these series of gatherings.

I hope as you respond that you will address that issue. Thank

you so much for coming. I look forward to your testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.