Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador Burns, I have the utmost enormous respect for you,

and thank you for being here. Just help me understand, please, the

administration’s policy.

In 2003, allegedly the Iranians make an offer where they say

they will stop their enrichment, they will consider a two-state solution,

and they will consider stopping the funding of Hezbollah. We

refuse to address them. We don’t negotiate. That wasn’t good

enough.

Now they offer nothing and we negotiate. Help me understand

that, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ambassador

Burns.

I want to reiterate my respect and admiration for you and for all

of the efforts that you have led with respect to the Iranian nuclear

program and in our efforts to thwart it, as well as your efforts in

NATO.

I am fully cognizant of the heinousness of the Iranian regime,

their duplicity, their dangerousness, but I want to try to hone in

to determine, quite frankly, the credibility of our own administration

as we develop our Iranian strategy, and I want to follow Mr.

Ackerman’s question, if I could.

Secretary Rice, when she was here not long ago, said she never

saw this purported offer that the Iranians purportedly sent to us

in 2003, as Mr. Ackerman described, putting on the table the nuclear

program, support by Iran for a two-state solution and their

support for Hezbollah and other Islamist-Palestinian Rejectionist

groups.

It is inconceivable, Ambassador Burns. You are too smart a man,

too prepared a diplomatic, too capable a person, not to know as you

chart our strategy with Iran whether or not in 2003 Iran made an

offer to this nation. Either they did or they did not. If they did, we

either determined it to be credible or not credible. All of this information

is 100 percent relevant—in fact essential—to know as we

go forward.

It is not respectfully an acceptable position for this administration

to tell Congress we don’t know, I didn’t see it, and who really

cares because we have so much on our plate now.

Please if you could, and when it is combined with your comment,

correctly so, when you say our policy is not regime change, I believe

you. You are an honest man, but yet Colonel Wilkerson and Mr.

Leverett within the administration said we rejected that purported

Iranian offer because the Vice President of the United States concluded

that our policy at that time toward Iran was regime change,

and it wasn’t going to be negotiation.

We are entitled to know whether or not the United States of

America received an offer and what the Vice President and President

of the United States decided to do with it, and it is in fact

respectfully 100 percent relevant to how we go forward because it

speaks volumes as to what is possible or not possible as we begin

this new process with Iran.