Thank you. Secretary Feltman, I want to continue to explore the Iran aspect

of it. Clearly their ambitions in the region are known and they are

counter to not only our national interests, but quite the safety of

the world. And I do not think that argument needs to be made any further.

If you could elaborate a little bit more as to how important Syria

is to Iran, how strategically important it is to their economy, to

their military aspirations, the land bridge that it serves to the rest

of the region, and how devastating it would be to them if, indeed,

Syria were outside their sphere.

Just in terms of the general policy goal of limiting

and containing and defeating Iran’s ambitions, violent ambitions,

for the region and the world, the loss of the Assad regime

would be a devastating blow to Iran. Is that accurate?

Now, one of the concerns that I think Senator

Lugar raised and I think some have, watching the experiences in

other parts of the region, is that if Assad’s regime were to fall, they

were to leave, they would be replaced by another form of radical

government or one that would not respect, for example, religious

minorities in the country. We know that there is concern about that.

What progress, in terms of the resistance, whether it is the

Syrian National Council or others, have they made in terms of—

or what is the potential for that being ameliorated, in essence, lessened?

My last question, Mr. Bronin, is on sanctions. I

have read the full menu of sanctions that we have placed and that

others have placed around the world, the European Community,

Canada. Japan I think recently did so as well, others.

I have been aware for some time now there is a flight from

Damascus to Caracas that takes place about every 2 weeks or so.

Is there any evidence of nations in the Western Hemisphere,

Venezuela in particular, but others providing assistance to evading

any of these sanctions?

The testimony is that as of now, we have not

found any willing, open participants in efforts to undermine our efforts

or other nations’ efforts to aid them in circumventing—

obviously, except for Iran—circumventing these sanctions.

OK, thank you.