Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary, can you talk to us about what measures are being

taken to encourage the Russians and the Chinese to remove their

objection to action in the Security Council? And in that regard, as

you answer that, is State consulting with Treasury on the possibility

of designating and imposing sanctions under Executive Order

13572 on Russian and Chinese entities selling weapons to Assad?

Because there are a lot of media reports stating that Russian state

arms dealers are continuing to supply the Assad regime with arms.

At least four cargo ships have left a Russian port for the Syrian

port of Tartus since December of this past year carrying ammunition,

sniper rifles, and a host of other armaments. Can you give us

a sense of both what is being done at the Security Council to move

them from their present intransigence toward Security Council action

and whether we are considering, in the face of this weapon

flow, actions under the Executive order?

Well, I am happy to have that. I just want

the administration to be thinking about what happens if we cannot

get our Russian and Chinese counterparts to understand—they

seem to be doubling down. At least Russia seems to be doubling

down. You say they seem to reach the same analysis that the final

result will be that Assad would not stand. But, however, their flow

of armament almost seems to be doubling down, as well as their

intransigence in the Security Council. So at some point, that Executive

order, if it is to have meaning, needs to be enforced, and I

certainly hope that at a minimum we would do that because stopping

the flow of armaments to Assad is incredibly important.

Let me ask you one other question. What is the possibility of this

situation devolving into a civil war, and if it does, what concerns

do you have for the political and economic implications of a Syrian

civil war on Syria’s neighbors, specifically on Lebanon and Jordan,

which will undoubtedly receive thousands of Syrian refugees?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.