Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward

very much to the testimony. I must say I respect you a lot, Mr.

Chairman, but I don’t necessarily subscribe to your critique of the

administration with respect to policy in Iran. I actually think we

have been yielding some results in coordinating with allies and in

enforcing the sanctions in a way that heretofore were not.

With respect to my colleague’s and my friend’s critique of the

Syria policy, it is powerful and needs to be heeded, but a word of

caution. This is not a unidimensional situation. It’s a multi-dimen-

sional situation and we have to not only worry about regime

change, we have to worry about what takes its place.

And so that’s a challenge for American diplomacy, and I think we

need to respect that while at the same time expressing our frustration

with pace and tone and the words being used that my colleague

rightfully criticizes. With that I yield back.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Posner, I take

your point that the fine art of diplomacy sometimes involves the

parsing of sentences and the careful perception of precise words or

sometimes deliberately ambiguous words.

But surely you can appreciate that there are many audiences

when the State Department speaks, and as you have heard from

this dais, there are one audience, Members of Congress who hear

in that language hedging, unwillingness to call out, you know, violent

murderous acts by a government against its own people for

what it is, and a clarion call for regime change. How would you respond?

So it is your position that there is absolute clarity

about U.S. policy and U.S. intent with respect to the Assad regime?

Mr. Posner.

No, it isn’t. No, it is not. Foreign policy isn’t just

about an audience in Hama. Foreign policy is also about the domestic

audience here that supports or doesn’t support our foreign policy.

What you have heard from this dais is Members of Congress

have trouble understanding what you just said. So it may be clear

in Hama. It is not so clear in the halls of Congress, and that is

your responsibility as well as ours. That is my point.

You have many audiences. That is an important one and I respect

it. But you need to, you, collectively, need to respect this one.

Otherwise you are going to erode confidence in what you are trying

to do.

And so I would commend to you, you know, parse those sentences

and select carefully those words for precision or deliberate ambiguity

with this audience in mind as well.

Thank you.

Ambassador Feltman, what is our goal in Syria,

understanding that peace and goodwill to mankind is not a foreign

policy?

So Mr. Ambassador, therefore, implicitly we

should conclude logically we favor a regime change because this regime

can’t do anything else.

And I have got 34 seconds, but are we concerned

that with the best of intentions in calling for that regime change

we need to be concerned about what takes its place?

Thank you. My time is up.