Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Thank you, witnesses.

I’ve learned a lot. I appreciate it, and I do not believe that

Assad should survive. I mean, he doesn’t have any legitimacy, but

that’s an easy thing for me to say because I don’t think he really

ever had any legitimacy to begin with.

I agree with Thomas Paine on the absurdities of some of these

hereditary dictatorships. I think Paine said is indiscriminately, admits

any species of character to the very same authority, so I think

that there’s a problem with that. I think we see that in North

Korea, where you now have Kim Jong-Un there. He’s like a 25-year

old kid, and now he’s in charge of these nuclear weapons. So, not

the right way to go.

Ambassador, in terms of the jihadists that are operating in Syria,

do you have any idea to what extent these are foreign fighters, are

they native Syrians, are they a mixture of both?

And do we suspect that some of those folks may

have been actually fighting American forces when we had a larger

presence in Iraq?

Now, what type of international support are these

foreign fighters, the al-Qaeda type terrorists getting? I know that

Zawahiri is favorable to them, but do they have any other source

of support, either ideological, military, or economic?

If it gets to the point where somebody else is

going to take over in Syria, somebody like Iran, who’s obviously

done a lot of business with Assad and is an ally, how would they

kind of mediate between some of these groups? I mean, I guess I’m

just asking you to just give me your general opinion, but would

they be willing to work with a group like JN or some of these

groups, or some of these moderate Syrian Opposition groups? I

mean, I guess I’m just trying to figure out how this would affect

Iran’s role in the region.

What about the moderate groups?

And then I guess the final thing that concerns

me, it just seems like in this part of the world when you have different

groups potentially jockeying for power, it seems like the

most militant and violent tends to take the upper hand, just because

they’re willing to do whatever. I’m worried that that will

happen in this case.

You know, 1) do you think that that’s a legitimate fear? And, 2)

what can be done, if anything, from our perspective, the United

States, to shape that outcome in a way that’s going to be better for

peace in the region?

Thank you. Yield back.