Thank you, Madam Chair. And I want to

thank the members of our panel for their testimonies this morning.

I just wanted to ask Secretary Richard, with the depth of your

understanding of refugee issues, and in your capacity as the Assistant

Secretary, what is happening in Syria? Do you see a similar

pattern in terms of what took place also in Rwanda and Darfur in

terms of the crisis that we’re facing in Syria today? Are we dealing

with the same situation that we found ourselves in with Rwanda

and Darfur?

Ambassador Ford, you mentioned earlier

that our current policy is that no military assistance is to be given

to the Syrian Opposition forces. However, it’s okay for Russia, Iran,

and even North Korea to continue to supply the Syrian Assad’s regime

with all the military equipment, things that they needed so

that he can continue killing his own people.

Do you see somewhat of a contradiction here in terms of the U.S.

just being an observer in all this, while the killing continues because

of countries like Russia and Iran?

And, by the way, Iraq allows Iran airspace

to transfer so-called medical supplies, and I’m told it’s not. It’s all

military hardware that Assad needs to continue his killing spree.

Can you help us figure this out?

To follow up on Chairman Chabot’s question

on the chemical and biological weapons, I’m told, at least according

to reports in July of last year, that the Syrian officials had given

every assurance that the stockpiles of the chemical weapons—primarily

nerve gas and mustard gas—are fully secured under the supervision of

the military, and will never be used unless Syria faces

external aggression.

I’m sure you’re quite familiar with that. Does that sound like an

invitation from the Assad regime? Just make my day, go ahead and

attack us and see what will happen. Does that seem to be the danger

that we face ourselves if this should ever take place?

Thank you, Madam Chair.