Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you folks on

the panel for your attendance and your testimony. Probably most

of my questions will be addressed to Ambassador Ford. Thank you,

sir.

I’m wondering regarding the red line, and I know we’ve kind of

kicked this horse a bit, but I want to get some specifics, if I could,

if you know them. What are the possible consequences? I share

your skepticism of the current reports, but let’s say that they are

true, or let’s say they become true at some point, what are the

ranges of possible consequences that the American people can expect

from the administration as a response?

Have they been discussed? Have consequences been

discussed that you know of?

I appreciate that, but I think it is important for the

world to know, for Congress to know, for Americans to know what

we can expect to see, at what point, so we can have that discussion,

because if it happens, and when it happens, it will be very quick,

and we don’t want to be in a position of Monday morning quarter

backing after-the-fact, and making sure we got it right. I understand

your reluctance to provide that information, but I think it’s

important for the American people to know.

And I’m not talking about hypothetical situations. I mean, we

have to have a plan, and we should know with the caveat that

there are certain security requirements, to know what those plans

are, what those possibilities are.

With that, do we know with any certainty what kind of WMDs,

if that’s what we’re discussing, whether it’s sarin gas, or whether

it’s choking agents, or blister—what are we talking about? Do we

know?

I would agree with you. However, right now we’re

looking at the anniversary of Iraq, and a lot of folks are ques-

tioning what happened there, and why did we do that, and what

did we get out of it? And it’s topical because we don’t want to end

up there again, and we should learn from those mistakes. And

right now I’m not sure that the American people have the confidence

of what the plan is.

Of course, having no clue what the plan is, we don’t want the

current administration to make the mistakes of any of the past administrations.

With that, and with your characterization of the

stockpiles that Syria has, I think the American people, and I think

the world see two outcomes here.

I mean, Assad has very little impetus to do anything but stay

there. If he leaves willingly, he’s going to be tried for war crimes

and spend his life in prison. I think that’s a fait accompli at this

point. Maybe I’m wrong, but that’s what I see. So, I’m wondering

what safeguards are being put in place regarding cross-border material

transportation of the things that we’ve discussed?

And let me just clarify, the Syrian authorities you’re

talking about are the ones that are currently in power?

But just one last question, Mr. Chairman, with all

due respect.

What safeguards—have you discussed any safeguards regarding

border control of these agents, other than telling the current regime

don’t do anything with them, don’t move them. What are we

doing proactively to make sure they don’t end up in the wrong

hands, or on our shores, or affecting our interests around the

globe?