Thank you very much for the opportunity.

You know, when I was young, I was always disgusted when I

saw one of these dictators, one of the murders go into exile. I always

thought that that was very unfair, that they would take

someone who had done all these atrocities, and they’d allow them

usually to go to France, usually Paris, you know. You know, you

think of him living a very luxurious life with his family. I always

thought that was very unfair, and certainly seems like we’ve

changed those laws.

As I’ve gotten older, however, I think of this situation now, and

I wonder the thought process of someone like, you know, the President,

Bashar al-Assad. I wonder what he’s thinking. I’m wondering,

and this started to happen when he’s looking over in Egypt, and

he’s looking at the former President there in prison, and potentially

going to be executed, and you said, Ambassador, he’s going to think

it’s time to call it quits and go. Where?

I mean, it’s very interesting because now we’ve gotten so tough

on these people. We don’t allow them to exile. We try to hunt them

down. We try to put them in jail. We try to do all these things to

them, and it’s appropriate, of course, with all the horrible things

that they’ve done. But what do you think is—if you can get into

his head, or someone like him, you’re an Ambassador, what is the

thought process going on his head? Oh, I should just give up. This

would be better if I just give up. I’ve been a dictator this whole

time. Or do you think hey, roll the tanks? What do you think?

I guess, how realistic is that? If you’re a dictator

who—you became the dictator because your father died, so you’ve

always been in charge. Your father was a ruthless person. Do you

think then he’s going to think well, you know, I think I’ll take my

chances here and let all these people that I’ve ruled very cruelly

for all these years take me to court, because I think they’re going

to be very generous in their dictates? Or do you think he’s going

to kill 70,000 people, do you think he’s going to murder people, as

many as he can, and run a war of attrition?

I think this is one of the issues that we really have to rethink.

I mean, I know it’s not political to say that but, you know, is it

really worth the murder of 70,000, 100,000 people, tanks mowing

them over, being bombed from the air, mostly children. In a war,

children always lose. Or do you let one really nasty, terrible, horrible

human being potentially escape? I don’t know. Maybe they

had it right for centuries before we had our more strict dictates in

law.

I put it out there, because I’ve got to tell you, I thought that this

is probably what Hosni Mubarak was going to do, also. I thought

he would roll the tanks. He seemed to be more of a human being

at the end and didn’t do that, but this guy, of course, did. I don’t

know where else would he go? If he’s going to be tried by his own

people—Ambassador, go ahead. I’m sorry.

Thank you. Thank you very much.