Sir, I'd follow up on that statement by the

ambassador, because I truly believe that a failure in Iraq

would empower the jihadist movement. It would give that base

of operations from which the jihadist movement would expand.

And it's consistent with the goals of Al Qaida in Iraq to

establish that Islamic state, and then to expand it into the

caliphate.

I also think that there, of course, will be very

significant regional impacts, both in terms of stability to

other countries in the region.

There will be economic impacts with respect to, in

particular, hydrocarbons and the effect that that could have,

particularly if those resources were in the hands of

jihadists. And . . .

MAPLES: Absolutely. And then I would follow with one last,

and that is the empowerment--further empowerment--of Iran

within the region.