Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Thank you for coming this morning and for sharing your

thoughts with us. Thank you, also, for allowing us to pursue some

of these issues. I want to pick up from where Senator Lugar left

off regarding the role of nations now engaged in Afghanistan. If I

recall, in both of your testimonies this morning, you referenced

Iran. Senator Lugar talked about the roles of Russia and Iran, and

other neighbors.

I would like to get your sense in a little more detail, specifically,

on what Iran has been doing, or not doing, to assist the United

States and our coalition.

Thank you. Madam Secretary.

Thank you.

I also would appreciate your take on the Russians. The Russians

now have a military presence in Afghanistan. From what I understand,

it came somewhat as a surprise to us. I am also interested

in your take on the Russians’ diplomatic efforts in Iran. Mr. Ambassador?

Do you believe the appearance of Russian troops

in Afghanistan was just a breakdown in communication between

our two countries? Or was it intended to be a surprise, or how do you read it?

Thank you. Madam Secretary.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yes.

Mr. Chairman, thanks for pointing out my academic

career, not one to be emulated.

Tom, thank you very much. I have always believed

in your judgment and solid understanding of life and your

insightful appreciation for what we are doing here, and I am very

proud of you and all at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who

have contributed to a better understanding of this issue all over

this country.

This is a complicated issue, as you know, and your colleague Ambassador

Tomsen, who you know, Mr. Chairman, who came to the

University of Nebraska at Omaha from his last post as our Ambassador

to Armenia, distinguished foreign service career, and he

along with Mr. Gouttierre has really developed a clear perspective

on this issue.

I might add as well, you have not hesitated to point out where

in your opinion we have drifted a bit as we have worked our way

along through this treacherous path. One that I want to get to here

in a question, you may have seen a story in the Omaha World Herald

today which quotes you and Ambassador Tomsen in AP reports

and stories, of your strong support of the result so far of the Bonn

meetings and the outcome last night in what now is in place and

what will play out here for at least the next few months.

If I have missed some of this in the first part of your testimony,

Tom, because of the vote, I apologize. But I would be interested in

getting maybe a little deeper sense from you of how you think the

process plays out from here. I know you are very supportive of the

individuals, Mr. Karzai who has been selected to lead this effort.

Anything that you would like to embroider around on this specific

area would be helpful.

Thank you.

Thank you.