Mr. Chairman, you don’t want me to turn

the gavel over to the Senator from Indiana when I leave?

[presiding]. It’ll be two quick questions.

What is the significance of the missile launch today?

Let me refine my question.

What is the significance of the timing of

the launch today?

The fact that there was a sequence of nine

launches of the Shahab-3, any significance to that sequence?

There was a former FBI agent named Bob

Levinson who disappeared a year and a half ago on Kish Island in

the Persian Gulf. The administration basically dropped this case

for a year, and about 6 months ago, with the persistence of a distressed

spouse and seven children, this has now come way up in

the attention of the administration and there are some things that

are happening.

Since you’re the number three in the State Department and this

Senator has visited various other Departments of the United States

Government, can you assure me that Mr. Levinson’s case is a priority

issue for Secretary Rice and the State Department leadership?

A lot of this is extremely sensitive information,

but for purpose of this open forum is there anything that

you want to share that would be an update on Mr. Levinson’s case?

If such a negotiation does proceed that

you’ve been discussing with the chairman and the ranking member,

who are the players within Iran that have the clout to broker the

deal?

In this case would it not be the Supreme

Leader that would be the decisionmaker?

Well, let’s talk about President

Ahmedinejad. Is his influence on the wane or on the rise?

All right, the committee will stand in recess

subject to the call of the chair.

Thank you.