Thank you very much, Under Secretary

Burns, for your testimony today and for being here.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding a hearing on this subject.

There are few higher priorities than getting our policy toward

Iran right. We must be realistic, both about the very real threat

from Iran and about the consequences of different courses of action.

We got it wrong in Iraq, and are suffering the consequences: An

overworked military, mountains of debt, and an increase in the

negative perceptions of the United States overseas. We cannot afford

to get it wrong this time around; the stakes are too high. Mis-

takes could cause the situation in the Mideast to spin out of control,

and, before we know it, we could be faced with even greater

security threats than we’re facing now.

But I do thank you for the hard work you’ve done so far. And,

first, I’d like to ask you—I note, Mr. Burns, in your testimony you

state that, ‘‘If we continue our skillful diplomatic course, and have

the patience to see it play out over the mid to long term, I am confident

that we can avoid conflict and see our strategy succeed.’’

What kind of a timeframe were you talking about?

Speaking of that, I want to pursue that a little

bit, because I—when I was in Indonesia last year, I asked President

Yudhoyono about why—I believe, at the time Indonesia was

one of five countries that had not voted to refer Iran to the Security

Council, and he indicated it was a question of timing. And now I

note that, in fact, Indonesia was, as I understand it, supportive.

And I think this is critical, because I think sometimes people think

of this in terms of the five permanent members of the Security

Council, but Indonesia is the largest Islamic country in the world

and has a real relationship with Iran. So, tell me a little bit about

how we’re going about enlisting countries like that, and indicating

to them that this is at our very highest—one of our very highest

priorities that we want from our relationship with them.

Well, I congratulate you on that approach,

and I’m glad it’s bearing some fruit.

You said, in your opening statement, that an active and focused

diplomatic strategy is the best way forward in dealing with Iran,

and I’m pleased to hear your comments today, and also those of

Secretary Gates yesterday, which signal the possibility of higher

level diplomatic engagement. Will you outline for me what these

higher level engagements would look like?

Thank you, Mr. Burns.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.