Thanks very much. I apologize for not being

here for the other part of the hearing. I had the head of the Social

Security Administration to come in and talk about the gigantic

backlog that they’ve got in appeals there.

And I want to welcome you here, and thank you for the great

service that you have provided our country, in many capacities, and

congratulate you and the Secretary of State on a team effort to involve

many more people in decisionmaking, in terms of some of the

problems that were confronted with great success in North Korea.

I’m not so sure I—the 1701 in—between Lebanon and Israel, I

want to talk a little bit about that. And, of course, you’ve gone into

the detail about the sanctions, in terms of Iran.

I would like to start with Iran’s involvement in places in the

world. And let’s start off with 1701, that’s been entered into between

Israel and Lebanon. It’s my understanding that the provisions

of 1701 are not being fulfilled, that, for example, the representation

was made that Israeli—two Israelis would be returned;

they haven’t been returned. It’s my understanding that the infrastructure

that was in place in Lebanon was supposed to be destroyed;

it’s not being destroyed. It’s my understanding that weap-

onry that’s supposed to be not coming into Lebanon is continuing

to be brought into Lebanon. And I’d like to know just what is the

role that Iran is playing right now in Lebanon. I know, for example,

that the Saudis are finally working to help out that government

there, but what is Iran doing to prevent the provisions of

1701 being carried out? And, beyond that, how in the world can

anyone think that you’re going to get any kind of settlement between

the Palestinians and the Israelis if the commitments made

in that agreement aren’t fulfilled?

OK, but the question——

Yeah. What is—what involvement is Iran actively—

how actively are they involved in frustrating the provisions

of 1701 from being carried out?

Well, I was up to the see the new Secretary

General 3 weeks ago, and I had tried to emphasize to him how important

it was that they make sure that the provisions of that 1701

are carried out. And one of the easiest things would—let’s return

those soldiers. That’s an easy one. I mean, that’s a——

Talk about a PR thing, they’re foolish that

they’ve got—they ought to be doing that right away.

The other issue is: Have you really ascertained what involvement

Iran is having in Iraq? You made reference to it, and people have

been reluctant to speak about it, because they don’t want to make

statements, because they want to make darn sure that the information

is good so we’re not portraying them as we should not be portraying.

But my feeling is that they’re very involved, and the real

question I have is: Who are they involved with? And I have this

theory, and maybe it’s wrong, but I really believe that Sadr wants

to become the next Ayatollah of Iraq. I think he wants to end up

running that place. And the issue is: What’s the relationship between

the people in Iran and Mr. Sadr?

Which Shiite group is—are they giving it to?

Are they giving it to Sadr, or who—or his competitor there?

But would Sadr be one of them that would

be the recipients of it?

The question was asked by Senator Webb:

Do you think that this sitting down with them will cause them to

reevaluate their involvement in Iraq?

Will the—will they listen to the Saudis and

others that are non-Shiite?

But are they—but are the Sunnis really trying

to talk with them about explaining that if this thing blows up,

it’s going to not be good for them, or for anyone else?

One thing—I’d just finish on this note,

that—I didn’t discover this until I started reading the history of

that region, that back during the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt

we made an agreement with the Saudis that we would protect

their ability to transport oil in consideration of their being our

good friend. And we have spent billions of dollars in that region

over the years, and I don’t think the American people have ever

been aware of how much involvement—that we get this idea, ‘‘Well,

we’re going to get out of there,’’ but the truth of the matter is,

we’ve been there for a long, long, long time; and the fact is, even

though Iraq may—we may do something there, we’re going to continue

to be in that region for a long, long, long time.

Thanks for your service.

I’m finished. I’m just listening.