Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you both for your service and your testimony. I want to

ask you, is there doubt in either of your minds that Iran is seeking

to acquire a nuclear weapons capability?

General.

Well, I raise the question——

Surely.

I asked the question because——

I asked the question because if Iran’s nuclear

program is for peaceful purposes only, then one must ask

themselves why they’ve refused to cooperate with the IAEA, why

do they continue to act in defiance of multiple U.N. Security Council

resolutions. It clearly raises the concern that if you have peaceful

purposes at the end of the day you’d act differently in order to

assure the world that you have peaceful purposes at the end of the

day.

Well, let me ask you this. If the goal of engagement

is to dissuade Iran from continuing its enrichment work

and acquiring a weapon or a breakout capability, do you believe

that it can work in the necessarily short time frame that we have,

based upon some of the reports that we’ve seen about where their

capabilities are at this point?

But the time is ticking on us as well.

We have an enormous challenge here. It’s

not that we have an open-ended opportunity.

Let me ask you one last question. Just yesterday Iran’s president

called Israel a ‘‘cancerous tumor,’’ and it called upon Muslims to

join in what he calls ‘‘resistance’’ against Israel. Earlier this week,

President Abbas said, ‘‘We are sending a message to the Iranians

and others to stop interfering in our affairs.’’

I just wonder, how do you characterize Iran’s behavior within the

region? And looking at that behavior, how would acquiring nuclear

capability embolden Iran as a power within the region?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.