Mr. Chairman, thank you very much and thank

you for chairing this hearing. This is an extremely important subject

for U.S. national security interests. Iran is a very dangerous

country. It is an oppressive regime to its own people, which is of

great interest, I would hope, not only to the United States but the

international community. It is a supporter of terrorism that is

beyond any dispute. The fact that they have increased activities

against Israeli interests is of major concern to all of us. The fact

that they have shipped arms to terrorist organizations from Hezbollah

to Hamas and other terrorist groups and supporting the

Assad regime in Syria, all those give us great concern as to what

is happening in Iran. And I followed your answers as to whether

sanctions are working and how effective they have been.

But one thing we know, there has been increased activity by

Iran. We know that they are still seeking to become a nuclear

weapons state, which would be a game-changer in the Middle East.

I want to first ask as to whether any of you have an opinion as

to whether Iran is targeting the United States directly. We have

seen evidence with the Saudi Ambassador in 2011. Do we have any

increased concern about Iranian terrorist activities that could actually

come to United States soil?

Should we be looking more toward attacks

against Americans, Dr. Levitt?

I want to talk about what the Iranian game

plan is in regards to its activities in Syria. Syria, by far, has had

the most international attention of late for good reason. The Assad

regime is causing incredible human rights violations. The Iranian

regime is one of the supporters of the Assad regime. One thing is

certain: Assad will not last much longer. We are going to see a

regime change. It will happen. I think most people agree on that.

Iran understands the dynamics of what is happening in Syria, and

yet they support the Assad regime. We also know the Sunni ethnic

population would most likely have more impact in the next government

of Syria. You would assume that there would be some accommodations

made. And yet Iran seems to be reaching out to have

influence in the next regime in Syria. I do not think we can just

assume that it will be an anti-Iranian regime.

Do you all have any views as to how you see Iran playing the

developments in Syria to further its own objectives of international

relevancy and maintaining its current objectives against Israel and

United States interests?

Do all three of you agree with that? You think

that it is pretty much a foregone conclusion, based upon what Iran

has done on the ground, that we will have the next Syrian regime

as an ally as it relates to actions against Iran or not?

Mr. Ambassador.

I would just make an observation, Mr. Chairman,

and I will yield the floor. One of the options, of course, is that

there is a coup from within and that there is no predictability as

to what type of government comes next. And there could be a government

that, yes, includes more representation from the Sunnis

but does not break its ties to the minority ethnic population and

its ties to Iran. I just think it is something we have to watch very

carefully. I think all of us are somewhat suspect as to what type

of government comes next and how close they will be to U.S. interests.

I was just pointing out would we have a friend as it relates

to policies against Iran, not a friend as it relates to maybe other

issues in that region.

But I think your responses have been very helpful, and I thank

you very much for your answers.