Thank you, Chairman Casey and Ranking Member

Risch. A very important hearing today and I very much appreciate

the witnesses here and the discussion already.

It is well known that Iran has been attempting to increase its

influence in Iraq before and after the end of United States involvement

in the war. And in addition, it has also been reported that

Iran gave support to the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan prior to

the allied invasion to overthrow the Taliban.

With regards to Afghanistan, do you believe that Iran will look

to continue its influence of groups inside Afghanistan, and is it feasible

that we could see an increase of Iranian activity as the United

States draws down its forces and turns over security responsibilities

to the Afghan Government?

Ambassador.

Do any of the others have—yes?

Dr. Levitt, any thoughts?

Thank you and thank you very much, Chairman

Casey.