

AIPAC
National Summit 2006: Closing Plenary

UN Ambassador John Bolton

October 23, 2006

Tape #1

U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, 10/23/06

Line#	Timecode	Quote
1		[START TAPE]
2		MS. STACY SCHUSTERMAN: Good
3	0:05:28	afternoon. I am Stacy Schusterman, a
4		National Summit Chair from Tulsa,
5		Oklahoma. Ladies and gentlemen, to
6		lead us in the motzi before lunch,
7		please welcome one of 27 rabbis from
8		around the country who has joined us
9		for AIPAC's National Summit - Rabbi
10		Judah Dardik from Beth Jacob
11		Congregation in Oakland, California.
12		RABBI JUDAH DARDIK: We are about to
13	0:06:05	make the hamotzi blessing in which we
14		thank Hashem for partnering with us
15		to bring forth bread from the land.
16		We are taught in the very beginning
17		of the Torah that our relationship to
18		the land is a dual one - to work it
19		and to guard it. We've been given a
20		gift of a precious land to work, and
21		every one of us is here in this room
22		because we are passionate about
23	0:06:32	guarding it. Let us say thank you
24		for that privilege. [HEBREW]
25		MS. SCHUSTERMAN: Shh. In my home

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26		state, folks appreciate people who
27		are direct and say it like it is, men
28	0:07:04	and women who don't pull punches.
29		Our next speaker is such a man. With
30		wisdom and the courage of his
31		convictions, he has continued to
32		remind this generation of the real
33		dangers that lie behind Tehran's
34		hateful rhetoric.
35		U.N. AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON: Iran
36		has long been a rogue state. The
37		world's leading state sponsor and
38	0:07:30	funder of terrorism. If the pursuit
39		of nuclear weapons by a state with a
40		leader who calls for another to be
41		wiped off the map is not considered a
42		threat to international peace and
43		security, then what is?
44		MS. SCHUSTERMAN: Thankfully, AIPAC's
45		Policy Conference is not the only
46		place that Ambassador John Bolton
47		warns of the threat Iran poses to the
48	0:07:53	world. He delivers this message
49		everyday as America's ambassador to
50		the United Nations, where he is at

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51		the center of efforts, even as we
52		meet today, to muster world support
53	0:08:05	for stopping Iran before it is too
54		late. With North Korea having
55		already tested a nuclear device and
56		Iran continuing to advance its own
57		nuclear program, the stakes truly
58		could not be higher. His important
59		work on a resolution to sanction Iran
60		for its defiance of the international
61		community and its ongoing pursuit of
62		nuclear weapons, has made it
63	0:08:29	impossible for him to be with us here
64		today. But we are glad that he is
65		joining us via satellite while also
66		dealing with the world's dangers at
67		the U.N. today as we meet. Please
68		join me in welcoming a man who
69		clearly understands the risk at hand
70		and works day and night to counter
71		them. He is a champion of the U.S.-
72		Israel relationship and a true
73	0:08:53	friend of AIPAC. Ladies and
74		gentlemen, Ambassador John Bolton.
75		AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Thank you very

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76		much. Thank you. Thank you very
77		much. Well, it's a - it's a pleasure
78	0:09:25	to be with you today, even if by
79		satellite, and I apologize for the
80		inconvenience I may have caused by
81		not being able to appear earlier.
82		But in fact we were having a
83		negotiation session over the Iran
84		sanctions resolution. I wanted to
85		take just a few minutes to update you
86		where we are not only with respect to
87		Iran but also with respect to North
88	0:09:48	Korea and how that all ties together.
89		You know, when the North Koreans
90		tested their nuclear device just
91		about two weeks ago, it may have
92		seemed like a remote kind of threat
93		in many respects - something that was
94		particularly important in northeast
95		Asia but perhaps not as much of a
96		threat in the broader world. In
97		fact, there's no doubt that there's a
98	0:10:12	clear linkage between what goes on in
99		North Korea and what goes on Iran,
100		not only because they watch in Tehran

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
101		what we do with Pyongyang and vice
102		versa, but because we have known for
103	0:10:26	some time that North Korea and Iran
104		cooperate very closely in their
105		ballistic missile programs. We know
106		that when North Korea was having a
107		moratorium on launch testing from the
108		Korean Peninsula, they were able to
109		share data from Iranian ballistic
110		missile launches since the family of
111		missiles that they are both working
112		on are so closely related. We don't
113	0:10:47	know the extent of their possible
114		nuclear cooperation but we can only
115		be concerned about it given the
116		threat the North Korea has so
117		recently demonstrated. And, you
118		know, the reaction of the Security
119		Council to the North Korea testing of
120		their nuclear weapon was very
121		important. We did get a unanimous
122		Security Council resolution,
123	0:11:08	including Russia and China,
124		condemning what the North Koreans had
125		done and imposing very severe

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126		sanctions not only against trade and
127		materials and weapons of mass
128	0:11:21	destruction across the whole range of
129		the activity -- nuclear, chemical,
130		biological, and ballistic missiles --
131		but we also, for the first time,
132		really began to use sanctions against
133		financial transactions that support
134		the North Korean weapons programs.
135		In the area of drug trafficking we
136		found that law enforcement uses the
137		financial transfers that drug
138	0:11:48	traffickers use to go after their
139		networks. And in many respects the
140		criminal prosecutions that are
141		launched based on the financial side
142		of drug trafficking may well be more
143		important than interdictions of drugs
144		coming into our country or being
145		transported in international
146		commerce. I think we've learned a
147		lesson there - a very important
148		lesson,
149	0:12:10	not only in the case of North Korea
150		but also in the case of Iran. So as

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
151		we're putting together our sanctions
152		resolution here we very much have in
153		mind what we've learned from the
154	0:12:20	North Korea experience. I want to
155		say that this is going to be a
156		difficult negotiation. Even though
157		the foreign ministers of the five
158		permanent members of the Security
159		Council and Germany some months ago
160		agreed in Berlin that they would give
161		Iran one more opportunity to give up
162		its pursuit of nuclear weapons before
163		going to the Security Council for
164	0:12:42	sanctions, every indication we have
165		is that Russia is still very
166		reluctant to pursue the sanctions
167		route, and that includes their
168		conversation with Secretary Rice as
169		recently as this Saturday when she
170		visited Moscow. What the foreign
171		ministers agreed some time ago was
172		that they would give Iran one last
173		chance to suspend its uranium
174	0:13:03	enrichment activities and gave them
175		until the end of August in Resolution

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176		1696, which is a resolution passed 14
177		to 1 with only the government of
178		Qatar voting against it. And even
179		after
180	0:13:17	August 31 came and went, at the
181		request of our European allies, we
182		gave the Europeans still more time to
183		negotiate with Iran to show beyond
184		any question that we prefer a
185		peaceful and diplomatic outcome to
186		the threat posed by the Iranian
187		program. We've gone an extraordinary
188		distance to show our peaceful
189		intention. We've said that we would
190	0:13:43	be willing to work with the Europeans
191		and Russia and China to show that if
192		Iran gave up the pursuit of nuclear
193		weapons they could have a completely
194		different relationship with us.
195		We've even said that we're prepared
196		to sit down with Iran in the context
197		of negotiations with the other
198		permanent members of the Security
199		Council, that we would be prepared to
200	0:14:03	sit down and talk to them [satellite

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
201		cuts out] nation of their nuclear
202		program, even though we consider Iran
203		to be the world's leading state
204		sponsor of terrorism. That's how far
205		we're
206	0:14:13	prepared to go to show we're genuine
207		in saying we want a peaceful
208		resolution to this problem. But only
209		up to a point. And that point is
210		that Iran, before we sit down at the
211		table with them, has to give up in a
212		verifiable way their uranium
213		enrichment activities. This the
214		Iranians have consistently refused to
215		do. Some years ago they briefly
216	0:14:36	agreed with the Europeans in a
217		program that would hopefully lead to
218		the elimination of their nuclear
219		weapons program, and temporarily
220		suspended uranium enrichment. But
221		they violated that agreement as they
222		have violated so many others and
223		that's why we're in the position
224		we're in today. I think that it's
225		clear Iran's not going to give up

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
226	0:14:57	uranium enrichment because Iran
227		doesn't want to give up the pursuit
228		of nuclear weapons. If they chose to
229		they really could have a different
230		relationship with the United States.
231	0:15:05	We've proven even in the case of
232		Libya, which was prepared to give up
233		nuclear weapons, give up its other
234		weapons of mass destruction programs,
235		renounce terrorism fully, that the
236		prospects for renewed Libyan/America
237		ties, resumed economic and political
238		relations are possible. Libya made
239		the calculated strategic judgment
240		that they would be safer not pursuing
241	0:15:28	weapons of mass destruction than
242		pursuing them. And so they abandoned
243		their efforts to acquire nuclear
244		weapons and other weapons of mass
245		destruction. Iran could do the same
246		thing but it has shown no inclination
247		at all in that regard. So we're now
248		going to go down the path of seeking
249		Security Council sanctions. As I
250		said earlier, the Russians and the

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
251	0:15:49	Chinese agreed to this whole approach
252		with the suspension resolution in the
253		Security Council, followed by
254		sanctions if Iran did not suspend its
255		uranium enrichment activities. But
256	0:16:00	it's - this will be a test of the
257		Security Council. It'll be a test of
258		the Russian and Chinese commitment to
259		pursue this course. The Russians
260		told us the very day that we were
261		adopting the North Korea sanctions
262		resolution that - which we thought
263		was pretty hard negotiations, that
264		Iran would not be as easy. So I
265		don't really have a prediction for
266	0:16:21	you today as to when we'll be in a
267		position to put this resolution to
268		the Security Council or how much of
269		our original draft will end up after
270		the negotiations with the Russians
271		and with the Chinese. But I can tell
272		you this - whatever happens in the
273		Security Council, that is not the
274		limit on what the United States will
275		do. President Bush has said

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276	0:16:42	repeatedly that Iran in possession of
277		nuclear weapons is unacceptable. I
278		think the President's clearly a man
279		of his word. When he says it's
280		unacceptable I think what he means by
281	0:16:51	that is that it's unacceptable, and
282		so we will not be limited by whatever
283		we're able to achieve in the Security
284		Council. If there are other steps
285		that we need to take, other measures
286		that we can pursue, whether financial
287		or through the Proliferation Security
288		Initiative, which President Bush
289		launched to prevent international
290		trafficking in weapons and materials
291	0:17:11	of mass destruction, we'll do it.
292		And although our clear objective --
293		and it should be our objective -- is
294		to resolve this peacefully. The
295		president never takes any options off
296		the table, not because he wants to
297		resort to the use of force, but for
298		the protection of our innocent
299		civilians and those of our friends
300		and allies, especially in countries

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
301	0:17:29	like Israel. The Iranians better
302		understand that no options are off
303		the table. So I wish you well in
304		your conference, and I wish all the
305		best for AIPAC. We'll be working
306	0:17:41	here on the resolution in the
307		Security Council so hope you'll keep
308		your fingers crossed for those
309		efforts. Many thanks and good luck
310		to you. [Applause].
311		MS. SCHUSTERMAN: I want to - I want
312		to thank you. Well, obviously
313		everyone here thanks you very much,
314		but I want to say a special thank you
315		for your insights and your update and
316	0:18:36	for speaking with us today, and we
317		certainly all wish you great success
318		in your work this week and into the
319		future. Thank you.
320		AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Thank you again.