



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable  
Eliot L. Engel, Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**JUN 28 2019**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your June 25 letter requesting further information about the Administration's views on the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs). The Department of State has great respect for Congress's role in authorizing the use of military force. As Secretary Pompeo has noted, the Administration's goal is to find a diplomatic solution to Iran's activities, not to engage in conflict with Iran. Moreover, the Administration has not, to date, interpreted either AUMF as authorizing military force against Iran, except as may be necessary to defend U.S. or partner forces engaged in counterterrorism operations or operations to establish a stable, democratic Iraq.

President Trump has expressed the U.S. willingness to negotiate with Iran. No one should be uncertain about the United States' desire for peace or a readiness to normalize relations in the event the United States and Iran reach a comprehensive deal. As Special Representative for Iran and Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State Brian Hook testified to your Committee on June 19, 2019, the Administration has implemented an unprecedented maximum pressure campaign focused on Iran with two primary objectives: first, to deprive the Iranian regime of the money it needs to support its destabilizing activities, and second, to bring Iran back to the negotiating table to conclude a comprehensive and enduring deal as outlined by Secretary Pompeo in May 2018.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs