QUESTION: Hi, Catherine Herridge, Fox News. What’s the status of the State Department investigation into these WIPO transfers to North Korea and Iran?

MR. VENTRELL: Well, I do have something for you on that. Hold on one second. So you’re asking about – I believe this is the World Intellectual Property Organization?

QUESTION: Correct.

MR. VENTRELL: I can tell you that we’re reviewing their development projects both for Iran and the DPRK. We’re working with both the Director General and other member-states to institute reforms that will ensure future development projects are properly reviewed prior to being approved and implemented. And we’re working in New York to ensure that the UN Security Council Sanctions Committees play a more active role in advising international organizations on how to remain compliant with UN sanctions.

QUESTION: As a follow-up, what level of cooperation – or how would you characterize the cooperation you’ve received from the UN?

MR. VENTRELL: Again, our review is ongoing so I don’t have any specific details for you at this time.

QUESTION: The issue here is that you’ve got this small UN body violating UN sanctions against North Korea and Iran. I mean, that’s a very serious situation.

MR. VENTRELL: Again, that’s why we’re reviewing this up in New York and we are looking at this very carefully. But in terms of the outcomes of what we’re able to uncover and how we go forward, until that review is complete I don’t have anything further for you. But clearly we take it seriously and we’re looking into it.

....

QUESTION: Great. Thank you. Do you believe this incident with WIPO has undercut the UN’s credibility and the effectiveness of the sanctions?

MR. VENTRELL: Well, again, I don’t know enough about where we are in terms of the evidence that’s coming – come forth in terms of this review. What I do know is that the Obama Administration has, for our national security interests, engaged very constructively and broadly with the UN. And we think that that’s shown real results for our national security whether it comes to Iran’s sanctions or North Korea or a number of other issues. And so we’ve constructively engaged with the UN. That’s our broader platform and policy. In terms of this particular instance, we have an ongoing review; we’re looking at it. But I just don’t know until – I won’t prejudge until we know more information.

QUESTION: But you agree it’s serious.

MR. VENTRELL: We’re looking into it.

QUESTION: Do you know when that review began?

MR. VENTRELL: I don’t actually have that information. I just have that we’re reviewing it for the development projects for both Iran and the DPRK.

QUESTION: Have you expressed any anger to the UN in your review?

MR. VENTRELL: Again, my understanding is we’re seeking more information. I don’t have anything further.

QUESTION: I mean, does it give any additional information about the review, what it’s reviewing specifically or when it began? I mean, you say “ongoing.” Has this been going on for months and months and months, or is it something that’s relatively recent?

QUESTION: Since April.

MR. VENTRELL: Broadly, Matt, what I do know is that there – this had to do with some sort of technology transfer and computers – that kind of transfer. I know we’ve been aware of it. I know we’re looking into it. I just simply don’t have any information. I’d be happy to look into it afterward.

QUESTION: Aware of what?

MR. VENTRELL: What did you say?

QUESTION: Aware – you said, “We’re aware of it.” Aware of what?

MR. VENTRELL: We’re aware of the allegations that there’s been a violation of UN sanctions in the transfer of this material. So that’s why we’re looking into it.

QUESTION: And you don’t know when the material was transferred?

MR. VENTRELL: I don’t have any further information here today at the podium, but obviously it’s something that we’re reviewing.