“Yes, youth may want to listen to music and watch fun TV,” said Nasser Hadian, a professor of political science at Tehran University who is currently a visiting professor at Columbia. “But there is still an audience hungry for real analysis, and the United States is wasting an opportunity if they ignore that.”

He repeatedly cautioned against jumping to conclusions and said that all complex inquiries move by fits and starts. He acknowledged that he had provided information as quickly as he received it, often without thorough analysis. He described some of this early information as “somewhat ragged and unreliable” and pleaded for patience as engineers work through their complex analysis.