The strict limitation of

funds in the resolution offered by Mr.

ROONEY of Florida would end our involvement

unilaterally. I believe this

action would be unwise, and that it

could materially harm our relationship

with NATO allies from whom we will

undoubtedly require support in the future.

It would also undermine the

worldwide effort to protect the people

of Libya.

Now in this amendment, there are exceptions:

search and rescue; intelligence,

surveillance, and reconnaissance;

aerial refueling; and operational

planning. I asked the majority if they

would put in suppression, because you

can’t conduct these other missions

without suppression, and if we don’t

have the ability to suppress enemy air

defenses, the allies will not be able to

continue the bombing campaign. So all

of these things that the gentleman

says he wants to do and have exceptions

for will be undermined by not

having suppression.

Today’s F–18 Growlers go in on these

missions and they suppress the enemy

radars so that the bombing can continue.

So I think this is fatally flawed

because of the lack of suppression, and

I feel that we now have to vote against

this because of that fact. I tried to

offer this as an amendment, but I was

told that they weren’t interested.

I just hope you understand that you

are undermining this mission and you

are undermining NATO. This deserves

to be defeated.

Thank you.

Wouldn’t you feel better if we could

add, as a fifth item in this list of

things, suppression of enemy air defenses?

The reason I say that is I think

we’re going to have a difficult time

doing any of these other missions unless

we have suppression.

I was just over there at Aviano and

Sigonella, and we were told by the

Navy that the allies do not have

enough suppression to be able to continue

to do these bombing missions

without U.S. help. I think it would help

if we could clarify that that is not

somehow abandoned.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly

support the Hastings amendment.

In my judgment, the President’s initial

commitment of U.S. airpower and

naval forces to support the international

effort was appropriate and

certainly within his power as Commander

in Chief. The United States’ effort

was undertaken in concert with a

broad coalition of nations, and it followed

a resolution adopted in the

United Nations Security Council, authorizing

‘‘all necessary measures’’ to

protect Libyan civilians attempting to

overthrow the oppressive regime of

Muammar Qadhafi. The Qadhafi government’s

response to the uprising, inspired

by the Arab Spring, was to use

force against civilians and opposition

forces, and the brutal measures

prompted the international outcry and

the U.N. action.

In March, the President clearly outlined

the rationale for our involvement

in this military action. While the direct

U.S. leadership of this effort lasted

a brief time, U.S. forces remain engaged

in the NATO operation. In this

Chamber today, we are considering

both the resolution authorizing the

continued use of limited U.S. involvement

in this effort or our immediate

withdrawal from it.

While I believe it would have been

more appropriate for the President,

under the terms of the War Powers

Act, to come to Congress earlier, I believe

the language offered by HASTINGS

of Florida, similar to the language introduced

in the other body by Senators

MCCAIN and KERRY, is the appropriate

course of action at this time.

The language preserves the understanding

between the administration

and Congress that U.S. ground forces

are not appropriate at this time and

were not asked for by the rebels.

The strict limitation of funds in the

resolution offered by Mr. ROONEY of

Florida would end our involvement

unilaterally. I believe this action

would be unwise and that it would materially

harm our relationship with

NATO allies.

And when I hear many of my colleagues

on the other side of the House

Chamber speaking in favor of abandoning

the cause, I’m reminded of Ronald

Reagan who attacked Libya with

air power and called Qadhafi the ‘‘mad

dog of the Middle East.’’