Mr. Speaker, I

rise in support of the President’s response

to Libya.

A week after it started, I received a

phone call from a very distinguished

professor at the University of Washington,

who had left and was back in

Libya. He is now the Finance Minister,

Dr. Tarhouni. He said to me, Please

give us air cover. If you can protect us

from the air, we can take care of it

ourselves on the ground.

As I listened to him, I thought of an

experience I had with President Clinton.

I flew to Africa, to Kigali, and met

with people who had been part of the

massacre—the maimed. Then I saw the

President go into the hangar and speak

to 500 Rwandans and apologize for not

having responded to the Rwandan massacre

on the first day. This was a situation

where the Libyans were asking for

it. It was one where the Arab League

was asking for it. This was not something

that was cooked up in the White

House, created and sent out. This was

done in response to people on the

ground.

My belief is that these kinds of situations

require the President to act decisively.

He did and I support him.