Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

I just had some questions that I hope we will be able to cover

today.

First of all, Congress was not involved at all in this decision

making process, but the United Nations was and the Arab League

was. And it seems to me we should have been involved very much

at the very beginning of this.

The Defense Secretary said that this was not a national security

interest, but it was of interest. Why is that?

There are people that are supposedly terrorists. I mean, Brad

Sherman yesterday at the closed hearing gave names of people that

have fought us in Afghanistan and Iraq, and why are we supporting

people who may be terrorists, who are terrorists and maybe

giving us a hard time down the road?

You know, I just do not know how we pick these things.

The Ivory Coast right now there is a real carnage there. Are we

going to go to the Ivory Coast and have a no fly zone and start

bombing people over there? Why did we pick Libya and not the

Ivory Coast because there is more carnage there right now?

First of all, in answer to my good friend Mr. Ackerman,

Congress approved going into Iraq before we went into Iraq.

Now let me read what the War Powers Act says. The War Powers

resolution states:

‘‘That the President’s powers, as Commander in Chief, to introduce

U.S. forces into hostilities or imminent hostilities can

only be exercised pursuant to:

(1) A declaration of war;

(2) Specific statutory authorization, or;

(3) A national emergency created by an attack on the United

States or its forces.’’

It requires the President in every possible instance to consult

with Congress before introducing American armed forces into hostilities

or imminent hostilities unless there has been a declaration

of war or other specific Congressional authorization. None of that

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happened and yet we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars,

and probably billions of dollars involved in this conflict. And my

concern is, and I hope you will answer this, Mr. Secretary, why are

we not in the Ivory Coast? Thousands of people are being killed everyday

by a leader who was thrown out of office and will not leave

because there was a democracy move and he is still there, and he

is killing people every single day. Now why is that not as important

as what is going on in Libya?

And I would like to know, and this has been brought up a couple

of times, how many of these citizen soldiers fighting against

Ghadafi, how many are people who are tied in with terrorist organizations

that killed Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan, and do we

know who they are? Do we have any idea?

The Secretary of State when asked this question a couple of days

ago said, ‘‘Well, we do not know all the players. We are looking into

it.’’

It is a heck of a situation when we go into conflict and we do

not know who we are supporting. I mean, this could be the Muslim

brotherhood, it could be al-Qaeda, it could be Taliban, it could be

a combination of all three, and we really do not know. And we have

not decided whether or not we are going to give arms to these people.

Will we be arming people who do not have our interests at

stake? The whole northern Africa and in the Middle East, the Persian

Gulf, the Suez Canal, the Straits of Hormuth, the Gulf; all of

that is in an uproar right now. How far do we go and where do we

go next, and why is not the Congress consulted in advance? The

War Powers Act, in my opinion, is very, very clear on this.

And then we talk about the Arab League. You know, Saudi Arabia

gets so much money from us it is not even funny, and many

of the other Arab countries are well healed. Why can they not pay

for this and if they are not paying for this, why not? And if they

are paying for it, how much are they kicking in or is the American

taxpayer on the hook for all of it, along with maybe some of our

NATO allies?

And one of the things that concerns me since we are going to try

to be antiseptic about this and make sure we do not kill any civilians,

we are just after the bad guys, well if Ghadafi has got control

of cities and he is moving into cities when the crowds are overhead

and we cannot impose the no fly zone, we have Ghadafi soldiers in

among the civilians. How are you going to get them out? You are

not going to get them out by dropping bombs on them without killing

civilians. There is no question civilians will be killed. So what

do we do? Do we support boots on the ground? Is France and Britain

and other of our NATO allies going in there? And ultimately,

will we go in there?

All of these are questions that should have been looked into before

we went into this conflict. And, you know there are a lot of

we can go to war if we really want to. But we got a war in Afghanistan,

we just finished in Iraq; that is still problematic in a lot of

people’s minds. And we do not have the money to do all these

things.

We have a $14 trillion national debt. We are sinking in red ink.

We are $1.4 trillion in the debt this year. We cannot reach an

agreement with the Senate right now on cutting spending of $61

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billion and I see that there is going to be a compromise of $33 billion

and we got a $1.4 trillion deficit this year. This country is in

big trouble and we do not need to buy more trouble by getting into

a conflict that is not necessary and in our national interest.

I do not see Libya as in our national interest. Obviously, we want

to protect civilians and people who are being killed, innocent civilians.

But how do you pick and choose? And why are we not in

places like the Ivory Coast or Syria, or elsewhere? These are questions

that need to be answered and should have been answered before

we went into this, and Congress should have been consulted,

the War Powers Act in my opinion is very clear on this.