Thank you, Madam Chair.

I will ask you to finish that statement later.

Thank you, Madam Chair, Ranking Member for

holding this timely hearing.

Secretary Steinberg, thank you for being here. Thank you for

your service, and good luck to you in those brutal Syracuse winters.

I would also like to commend the State Department and Secretary

Clinton for her leadership at the U.N. in securing passage

of Security Council Resolution 1973.

The actions of our Government over the past weeks in Libya

have made it clear that the U.S. stands firmly in support of those

seeking democracy and freedom.

Monday, I was pleased to hear the President define our goals for

the operation and strongly reiterate to the American people that

there will be no U.S. troops on the ground. The decision to intervene

in conjunction with the international community was one that

was necessary to prevent a massacre of innocent civilians and stabilize

a region on the brink.

I look forward to hearing from your today, Mr. Secretary speak

to your thoughts on what pressure will be necessary to assist the

opposition in its quest to remove Ghadafi from power and short of

that—short of that when we will know that this engagement can

and should end.

And I yield back my time.