Thank you, Madam Chair.

Whenever the President of the United States commits our nation

to any level of military engagement, it is a serious and sobering

moment and there are bound to be questions and concerns that

must be addressed. I have my full sheet of questions and concerns

about our actions with regard to Libya, but I want to be sure to

take this opportunity at the outset of this hearing to get on the

record my appreciation for a key fundamental component of this

particular engagement. That is the fact that we are operating in a

multi-level partnership with NATO and coalition forces, sharing

the responsibilities that come with the establishment of a no fly

zone and necessary measures to protect civilians as authorized by

U.N. Security Council 1973 on March 17th.

From my perspective, the necessity, purpose, objective and methods

of Operation Odyssey Dawn were made clear by the administration.

That said, I expect the administration will continue to

work closely with Congress on this engagement as we move forward.

I recognize that this is a developing situation which the reports

today of rebels in tactical retreat. We know that days coalition convened

in London to discuss next steps politically and otherwise. So,

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today I look forward to getting more of the details and answers

that will help inform my perspective and decision making as a

Member of Congress.

I hope Mr. Royce got the money back from Iraq with

costs. I heard back then that Iraq was going to pay for everything

that we did when we entered that war. So, I hope he got the money

back there first, and all the money that it has cost the American

people for all of these years that we have been in Iraq. Amazing.

Let me say that, first of all, as I started out in my opening statement

the oceans do not protect us. You talk about American interests

and we want to be safe, let us be safe if we do not have any

allies. How can we be safe if we do not have anyone else working

with us.

When we were not attacked and none of our other allies were not

attacked, we asked them to come with us to Afghanistan and Iraq.

They cooperated with us. There are a number of our allies now who

said we had a problem. We are supposed to be a team, we are a

NATO unit, we need your help now. You have unique assets,

unique capabilities so we need your help. We want you to be a part

of this. We did not just go running into some place. And this is not

just the United States saying it is my way or the highway. Because

the last time we did that when somebody did not agree with us

that we wanted to come in, we got Freedom Fries in the Capitol.

But here’s a President who is being deliberate, making sure that

we have our allies with us so that as we fight al-Qaeda and we

fight terrorism we have people because we know we need their intelligence,

their help, they are moving because it is a threat to all

of us. It is a common threat. So, we are working together.

And Libya happens to be the country that our allies says we

need to work together on, just as we asked them. So it seems to

me to make sense that it helps the American people and we all

share in the costs here and what our particular roles are. So how

dare are we say it is just United States go on your own again, forget

our allies, forget what they need, forget working with them, forget

considering anything that they said; that is unilateralism. That

would make the American people unsafe. That is exactly what the

terrorists want; they want to be able to isolate us and to say that

we are just doing whatever we want irrespective of everyone else.

I am glad that this President has not done that and is working

collectively with everyone else.

Let me just give you the opportunity, because I think that you

were trying to in your opening statement and you ran out of time,

and it was actually the first question that I had on my mind, to

talk about Kosovo and what took place there and now. I know

there is no exact situations. And what the difference is.

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And I was just wondering what lessons could we have learned or

did we learn from Kosovo that we could apply now so that we can

make sure that we get rid of the guy and move on about having

some kind of a ground work for political options in Libya and having

something politically done? Can you tell us about that?