Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I take faith in the President’s promise that we are not going to

engage in a third large scale intervention, but I do think that there

are some important lessons that we can learn from the mistakes

made in the communication between the administration and Congress

with respect to Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to talk about

cost, and we need to be honest about it. And I appreciate the administration

putting numbers on the table so soon, but we need to

make sure that those are worst case numbers as well as best case

numbers.

And though I want clear objectives, I also want to be honest

about the fact that terminology and explanations often are much

more nuanced then are presented to Congress. And I appreciate

both in the President’s speech and in briefings that have been

given to Congress I think there has been some honesty about the

complexity of our objectives and the complexity of measuring out-

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comes. I think that if that kind of honest talk continues, it makes

it a lot easier for us to judge whether this is an engagement worth

continuing investment.

I yield back.