Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

I give high marks to this administration, to the Secretary of

State and to the President on how this crises in Libya has been

handled. Yes, we are up against radical Islam and we will hear

about that as this hearing goes on. But if the United States was

not engaged in helping those fight for freedom, those people who

want to overthrow tyrants and corruption in the Islamic world, we

would leave the field to the radical Islamists. We need to be engaged.

We do not need to send U.S. troops on the ground. If the

President introduces troops on the ground, you have lost me. But

this is consistent: Helping those people fight for their own freedom

is consistent with what we did during the Reagan years. It is called

the Reagan Doctrine. We did not send people all over the world and

put them into action, we helped those people all over the world who

were willing to fight for their own freedom. And in this case I understand,

or I have been in direct contact with the leaders of Libya

of the revolutionary movement, that they will repay the United

States for every cent that we spend in helping them free themselves

from the Ghadafi leadership.

So I am looking forward to the hearing. And

I think they have handled the situation we have in the right way.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

And I apologize. I have been having to run back and forth between

two hearings that are significant. And if I cover a question

that has already been asked, I apologize.

Let me get to the cost. I have made several contacts with the

Transitional National Council and those revolutionaries who are

trying to free themselves from the Ghadafi tyranny. And, in fact

Omar Turbi who is right here, just returned from Libya and was

meeting there with the Transition. Thank you, Omar. And he

assures me as well as some of the other contacts that I have had,

that the Council has agreed that they will pay all of the cost of

American operations in support of their efforts to free themselves

from the Ghadafi dictatorship. What is your understanding about

that?

All right. Let me ask you specifically: The administration

does support, does it not, or maybe you can tell me

they are not at this point supporting the principle that if we are

helping the people of Libya free themselves from Ghadafi dictatorship,

that they will repay us?

All right. And the American people will also

welcome that. And let us note that one of the things that tears at

the heart of the American people is that when we get involved in

things like this, quite often we feel that the country that we are

helping or the people that we are helping are not grateful to us.

And whether it is Omar or others who I have been talking to, it

is very clear that those people are struggling against Ghadafi today

in Libya are grateful that the United States is playing a positive

role toward their effort to free themselves.

As I mentioned in my 1-minute opening statement, this is not

unlike the Reagan Doctrine. We are not sending troops overseas to

do the fighting for other people who are trying to win their freedom.

We ended the Cold War during the Reagan years, and I might

add, did not have bipartisan support in many of these cases, where

we were supporting those elements that were fighting for their own

freedom against communist tyranny. Well radical Islam now

threatens the peace of the world and the freedom of people

throughout the world. And I might add, by being involved with people

who are fighting for their freedom, we are at least lessening the

impact of radical Islam, if not offsetting it in important situations

like this. Maybe you could expand on that?

And if we were not engaged, for my fellow

colleagues who seem to be trying to suggest that American should

not be engaged or at least are engaged in nitpicking themselves in

terms of finding things wrong with what the administration has

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done; if we were not engaged, there would be no motive for those

people on the ground to confront radical Islam on sight? Right now

they know if al-Qaeda or any of these other operatives who hate

the west as much as they hate Ghadafi, there would be no reason

to confront their influence if it was not for the United States there

helping. So, I would hope that we understand that this is in our

interest, as it always is in the interest of the American people to

stand with those people who are struggling for freedom and a

democratic government. However, it is not in our interest to send

our troops all over the world.

I am sure this has been covered before, but maybe you could reassure

me that we have no plans to send American combat troops.

And let me note, Ronald Reagan built up our military forces, but

rarely did he dispatch them into any type of combat zones around

the world. Instead, we supported those people who were fighting

for their own freedom. Is this going to be the case with this administration?

And if you do, we just note you will lose the

support of many of us who are now supporting your efforts if your

plans include sending combat troops an putting them on the

ground in Libya.

Thank you very much.