Thank you.

Four weeks ago the Secretary of State was here, and I suggested

at that time that we should jam Ghadafi’s communication system.

There is no cost to doing it. And in fact we had a lot of officer defections

at that time.

I look for meaning in this. We recognize we got a $14 trillion

debt, and we spent $0.5 billion in a few days on this operation. I

think the estimates are that it is going to be for a 6-month no fly

zone; a very expensive proposition.

We have got $33 billion right now in frozen Libya assets. We

need to put those to use.

The President boasts about a coalition. It is time for that coalition

to open its checkbook. If we are going to proceed, it needs to

offset dollar-per-dollar because at the end of the day there are costs

to our security, too. We focus, you know away from our strategic

threats. It has taken us far too long, for example, to exit Iraq. Now

we have this added commitment.

The only way for it to go down is to pay for it out

of those Libyan assets.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I want to get back to something that I mentioned in my opening

statement, and that other members have mentioned here, and that

is the cost. One of the reasons I want to get back to it, Mr. Secretary,

is because you did not mention it in your opening statement,

and that caught my attention.

In London this week, Secretary Clinton mentioned that there

was discussion about financial assistance to the transitional government,

to the Transitional Council I think is the terminology you

used. What is envisioned in that sense?

I have seen those figures.

Well, I appreciate that. But what steps is the administration

prepared to take to facilitate access to seize the $33 billion

in assets that Ghadafi has here, that Libya has here in the

United States?

Well this is my concern. I mean you have two ways

to do that. You could facilitate access to proceeds from new oil

sales, or you could access these assets. But let me ask you another

question along that line.

We have other coalition partners here; the Arab League. What

commitment have they made? And I ask that because we are looking

at a budget deficit $1.6 trillion for this year. We are borrowing

42 percent of everything that we spend here in Washington. This

is why I was pushing early on for an alternative approach: Jamming

his communication system, which we did not do at the time

so that Ghadafi could not for weeks communicate with the troops

when they were defecting rather than an expensive proposition—

we have seen this before.

I remember pushing jamming in broadcasting in Yugoslavia before

the election. Milosevic came that close to being defeated by

Panic. Had we done what was in the legislation, had it gone

through, we could have effected the outcome. We could have

jammed the broadcasting of Taliban radio in Afghanistan all of

those years. We also could have done our own broadcasting with

Radio Free Afghanistan. That legislation passed only after

Massoud was killed.

So what I am pointing out is a lack of understanding here in

terms of cost effective ways to do diplomacy or to change governments,

and there is a tendency to forget about how we are going

to collect the check after we have left. I think we have proven that

if we do not get that set up front, it is not going to happen. Could

assets be used to repay the U.S. Treasury for war costs? I guess

that is the question.

Yes.

You are doing it now for weeks later.

By the way, the former government started the broadcasting into

Yugoslavia the day of the bombing. We started the broadcasting

under my legislation in Afghanistan only after Moussoud’s death

and the day before the bombing. If we wait too late, there is a time

which taken at the brink leads to a decisive move, especially when

you are talking about jamming your opposition when his generals

are defecting.

The Defense Secretary said the military operations have been

planned, I read this in the paper, on the fly. I hope this cost question

is not being dealt with the same way. Because, again, that is

how you get stuck with the check. And I have not gotten a definitive

answer here that commits the administration to the idea that

we are not going to get stuck with the check.

I think I am going to come back with the legislation

on this.

Because I do not have a definitive answer yet. And

I think I will talk to Mr. Sherman on that front.

Thank you.