Thank you. And it is the opening day of the Reds

today, and I am wearing my red scarf. Cincinnati Reds, by the way,

sir.

Mr. Deputy Secretary, I, like most Americans, am concerned

about this endeavor, and concerned for a couple of reasons.

The first is if we do not take Ghadafi out, my fear is that he will

become emboldened in the region, and not only just emboldened in

the region, but what he will do to the rebels. He said he will go

after them and massacre them. And I truly believe that he will. So

here is the problem I have—the strategy: We are only going to do

an air strike, but an air strike clearly is not enough. And Ghadafi

is smart enough to allow us to go in and strike and then let the

rebels come in and think that they are going to take over a village

or their area, and then he comes in and he gets them. Because the

problems with the rebels are twofold. They do not have any training

and they do not have real weapons to combat Ghadafi’s weapons.

Now my concern is if there is an effort to get them training and

an effort to get them weapons, do we have the security that these

rebels will be better than Ghadafi or will they be worse? Again, the

devil that you know sometimes is better than the devil that you do

not know. So these are legitimate concerns that I have, and I do

believe that Americans have. So that is my first question.

Thank you. A couple of follow-up questions.

While you might want to compare this to Kosovo, actually they

are very different parts of the world. And while one strategy might

work in one area of the world, it may not work based on a variety

of issues, including the trade, the culture, the environment, the

neighborhood in the other. And so I would not be so comfortable

to compare this to the similar situation over 15 years ago in

Kosovo.

But having said that, the second concern that I have, that I

think a lot of Americans have, is that we chose Libya clearly, as

some other folks have suggested on this panel. Why Libya? Why do

we go after Ghadafi for the cruelty and inhumanity that he has

shown to the folks in this country when you have folks in Dhofar

that have been suffering for almost a decade now, and maybe even

over a decade, and we have done little to nothing for those folks?

So, I am kind of surprised that we would put all of our eggs in

this basket when there are other troubled spots around the world

that might need the same human compassion.

And my final comment is if we are going after the

bear in the woods and you strike the bear, you had better take the

bear out because the bear will take you out.

If we want stability in this region, Ghadafi then is going to have

to go, because if Ghadafi remains, the region is not going to be

more stable; in my opinion, it is going to be less stable.

Thank you very much.