Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I want to

thank you for holding this hearing. I also want to say something

that I don’t say too often in this committee, and I think the gentleman

has just left, but I’d like to associate myself with most of

the remarks that I heard from the gentleman from California, Mr.

Sherman here. I have many of the same concerns that he did.

One common characteristic that unites, or will unite many of the

questions that will be raised here today is just that, that they’re

questions. The fact of the matter is that we’re sitting here today,

we know far too little about the nature of the operation in Libya.

Even the most basic questions about what our objectives are, or

how exactly the administration supposes that we will achieve them

are completely unknown, have been unrelated to the United States

Congress.

No plans have been presented here. No time line has been offered,

no contingencies have been discussed. I’m left to believe one

of two possible conclusions; either the administration has no plans

at all, or they have not felt the need to inform the United States

Congress of them. Either way that you cut it, we have serious problems

on our hands.

It’s ridiculous that Congress was not consulted before this operation.

But that aside, we need serious answers, and we need them

now.

I just got back from Iraq a couple of days ago, and Saudi Arabia,

and from Egypt about 1 month ago, and Israel, and the Middle

East is far too important an area, Northern Africa, as well, for the

administration to take action as it has in this particular instance,

and not include the United States Congress.

And I believe that the administration would have gotten considerable

support from the Congress. We are, after all, the representatives

of the people. The people should have been involved in this

decision process. And, as I said, we need answers, we need them

now. And I yield back.