Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Following up on that comment, I would presume our ability to

block those funds is through an international banking agreement;

is that correct?

I think Senator Kerry and Senator Durbin

raised an excellent point, and I think one of the things we ought

to be doing is looking at what that authority is and creating the

opportunity for those funds to be used to reimburse the liberation

of an oppressed people, if the funds are in fact those of Mr. Qadhafi

or whoever might succeed him.

A RICO statute, I guess, for bad guys, is what we need. That

would be a good thing.

But is there any precedent for that money being used to reimburse

a country for its effort in liberating a nation?

And then, following up on Senator Durbin’s

question, it is true the Kuwaitis paid for a substantial amount of

the cost of the liberation of Kuwait; is that not true? They did so

voluntarily.

I’m sorry I was late, and this may have been

asked, and I apologize, but I was told earlier today that we have

withdrawn our 130s and our A–10s from the conflict. Is that

correct?

Well, I think it is true that yesterday or in the

last 36 to 48 hours, we have been significantly curtailed from our

ability to operate because of sandstorms and weather. Is that not

true?

Well, my concern is this: we are where we are.

What we do now and in the future in the Libyan conflict is going

to send a lot of signals to that part of the world. If, in fact, our

actions protract the ultimate resolution of the problem by our disengagement

or taking our more significant assets out of play, we

run the risk of having a protracted stay by Qadhafi in a position

he ultimately must go from, because we weren’t ever willing to

fully commit or to say that regime change was the ultimate goal.

I think, in fact, if you read the Arab Union piece, the U.N. piece,

and the speeches that leaders have made, everybody realizes

Qadhafi’s got to go; everybody has expressed this verbally. But

then we say we’re not for regime change, and if we’re dissolving

some of our emphasis in that country we’re running the risk of protracting

what’s a terrible human situation in Libya.

I’m not asking you to ratify my opinion, but I’m just telling you

that’s what I see. I think Secretary Clinton has done an admirable

job over the last month and the State Department should be commended

on what it’s done to get the U.N. resolution and get the

players together and get the commitment. But now that we’re all

of a sudden there and we’re at a point where it’s going to go one

way or another—and it could be bad—we ought to do everything

we can to see to it that that does not happen.

Well, I’m going to make a statement that you

don’t have to respond to, and Chairman Kerry or Senator Lugar

can correct me, because my memory gets bad sometimes. But in the

1970s when the Shah of Iran was ousted and he was our ‘‘friend’’

and we brought him to the United States for medical care, we

didn’t really engage with those that were trying to throw him out,

and because of that, a vacuum was created, and the ayatollahs

came into power, and we are to this day still dealing with that.

We have the potential of uprisings in other Middle Eastern countries

where people are seeking what appears to be democracy or

their form of democracy and freedom. What we do or don’t do in

Libya’s going to send a signal to the rest of that part of the world

as to how much support there will be for democratization, freedom,

and liberation from despots.

So, I remember the hostages in the American Embassy in

Tehran. I remember the embarrassment we went through as a

country, and I remember the difficulties of that day. And I would

hope—my opinion is—our actions now should be actions that would

send the signal: we’re not going to withdraw or back away from

support for people that are seeking freedom, liberty, and justice.

You don’t have to comment on that. That’s just——

Well, on a closing note, let me just congratulate

you on your service to the country and the State Department

and wish you the very best in your new adventure.