Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I admire your stay at the State

Department. I’m actually going to miss you when you go. Syracuse

is going to end up being a lot better off as a result.

I sponsored the resolution supporting a nofly

zone with Senator Kirk. I get it. I understand and fully agree

with the need to stop a massacre. I acknowledge that we could

have seen a tremendous outflow of refugees into Egypt trying to

avoid the impending massacre, and all of the challenges that would

have presented in the transition there.

What I don’t get, however, is how we reconcile that with your

statement that we are not seeking regime change, when the contact

group has sent a strong international message that we must move

forward with a representative democratic transition and that

Qadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead and must go.

So if Qadhafi has lost his legitimacy and must go, but our effort

is not regime change, are you suggesting that, in fact, we can reconcile

those and would accept Qadhafi’s continued rule as having

met our aspirations in this respect?

Our ultimate goal, not through the military

exercise, but our ultimate goal is to see Qadhafi leave?

Now I understand it, when you phrase it

that way.

Now, in respect to the Transitional National Council, many

voices have been raised in concern with there allegedly being

al-Qaeda and other elements within it. I read in your statement

that the council has publicly stated its commitment to democratic

ideals, and its rejection of terrorism and extremist organizations,

including al-Qaeda.

What is our depth of certainty as to that view?

I would hope that we learn our lessons from

history. We don’t want to end up arming another Taliban. So at the

end of the day I assume that we are using every intelligence tool

we have to ascertain the nature of this council’s membership.

Now, on a related matter, as you may know,

I have been pursuing with other colleagues from the committee the

issue of Libya and Qadhafi’s engagement with the bombing of Pan

Am 103. The former Libyan Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil

has indicated that he has evidence that shows that Qadhafi personally

ordered the attack on Pan Am 103 that killed 270 people,

including 34 New Jerseyans.

Qadhafi is also suspected of being behind the 1985 attacks by

gunmen at the airports in Rome and Geneva that killed 19 innocent

travelers, and wounded approximately 140, including an 11-

year-old American child.

My question is what steps is the Department taking to ensure

that we take this moment—I know that there’s a bigger issue here,

but we can do multiple things at once, I would hope, as the greatest

country on the face of the Earth—to collect the evidence about

the Pan Am bombing and other terrorist acts perpetuated and

financed by Qadhafi that the former justice minister or other

former Libyan officials may have? What are we doing specifically?

My second question relates to the recent defection of the Foreign

Minister, Musa Kusa. He may very well likely have had a hand in

the planning of the Pan Am bombing. I am concerned that a man

who at a minimum may be responsible for countless deaths and

human rights abuses in Libya saw the writing on the wall and

found it to be in his best interests to switch sides at a propitious

time for himself and try to insert himself in a powerful role within

the Transitional National Council.

Do we intend to investigate his role in the Pan Am 103 bombing

and, if so, are we ready in both of these cases to, one, amass the

evidence, and, two, use that evidence?

I don’t want you to give me specifics and I

know all about grand juries. The question is are we making it a

priority to ensure that we take advantage of this opportunity to get

information and evidence that could be brought to court, whether

in the International Criminal Court or even in the courts of the

United States?

Well, my time has expired. I just want to

say that I hope that when this chapter has passed I won’t have

someone here from the State Department or the Justice Department

telling me how we lost the opportunity to document whatever

evidence could be deduced from these individuals as to the involvement

of Qadhafi and others in the killing of U.S. citizens.