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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

April 12, 2011

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Secretary General:

On March 19, 2011 the United Nation (UN) Security Council adopted Resolution 1973 which authorized the international community to act to "to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack" in Libya. That measure allowed member states to act "nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements ... in cooperation with the Secretary-General."

However, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which has acted under the authority of the UN mandate, have expressed a desire to remove Muammar Gaddafi from power, a demand that was not authorized by the United Nations Security Council. The Libyan Transitional National Council yesterday rejected a cease-fire proposal because it lacked a requirement for Gaddafi to leave power. The United States did not have a full accounting of the cease-fire proposal, but Secretary Clinton continued to call for regime change. Today, news reports indicate that France and Britain are urging NATO to expand their operations in Libya. The British Foreign Secretary, William Hague, was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying that "[a]ny viable future for Libya involves the Departure of Colonel Qaddafi."

It is imperative the UN remind France and Britain that regime change is not part of the UN mandate. An attempt at regime change would likely expand a civil war creating a large number of civilian casualties on both sides. NATO is not authorized to go beyond the UN mandate and France and Great Britain should not demand they do so. The UN Secretary General must intervene to stop an expansion of the war even though two member states, for whatever reason, appear intent on pursuing that expansion.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress