Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of the Hastings resolution.

I think it’s important to remember

that U.S. military force is a very awesome

thing and should only be employed

in very select circumstances.

We misused that power when it came

to Iraq, and we used that power in an

improper way and too long in Afghanistan.

But when people are being

slaughtered by dictators around the

world, where massive loss of lives and

innocents are at stake, I think it is appropriate

for the United States to step

up and protect those people.

Yes, we do have business in Libya.

We have business in protecting mass

murder from happening and stopping

mass murder from happening around

the world. We have business in stopping

the destabilization of regions like

north Africa. We have business in making

sure that the peaceful resolutions

in Egypt and in Tunisia are not undermined.

We have business in making

sure that dictators like Ali Saleh in

Yemen and Bashar al-Assad in Syria

are not emboldened and the signal does

not go out to them that they can continue

to wipe out their population and

nobody cares.

I believe that if I was in this Congress

when Rwanda or Srebrenica or

Darfur were happening, I pray that I

would stand up and say that those people

need to have some protection and

that the most powerful Nation in the

world shouldn’t stand by while innocent

women and children are being

mowed down, and I hope today that my

colleagues will join in that because it’s

the right thing to do.

Thank you very much.