Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me this

time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support

of this resolution and commend the

chairman of the committee and the

ranking member for their leadership on

this issue.

I regret that the gentleman from

California has left the floor.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that

made me nervous, very frankly, during

the Cold War, was some well-meaning

Members used to get up and draw parallelisms

between Soviet actions and

perceived problems in the United

States. There was no parallelism or

comparison to be drawn. And the gentleman

from California that tries to

draw a parallelism between the Muslims

and Mr. Izetbegovic and the

Croats and the Serbs, I would, with all

due respect to the gentleman from

California, strongly disagree.

President Reagan saw evil, and he

called it evil. That was what it should

have been, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Milosevic is evil. I do not come to this

floor for a brief on Mr. Tudjman or Mr.

Izetbegovic, but I see no parallel between

the war crimes sanctioned by,

led by and committed by Mr. Milosevic

and the other two.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker,

is once again the butcher of Belgrade

has struck, and the victims are his own

citizens. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we should

not be surprised. This is a conflict that

has been simmering for a long, long

time; some would say centuries.

The new Chairman of the OSCE, Foreign

Minister Bronislav Geremek of

Poland, in mid-February, just 30 days

ago, referred to the situation in Kosovo

as, and I quote, a conflict in preparation.

As many of my colleagues know,

Kosovo has been overshadowed for

some years by the conflict in Bosnia.

Preoccupation with Bosnia, in fact,

contributed to the maintenance of the

status quo in Kosovo, especially since

there was a strong chance early on for

the Bosnian conflict to have a spillover

effect on nearby regions.

Like a number of my colleagues, I

have been to Pristina, the capital of

Kosovo. I have talked to Kosovars, but,

more importantly, I have talked to

Milosevic’s hand-picked representative

in Pristina. And I asked that representative,

‘‘Is there one person, just one,

one Kosovar, out of the 90 percent Albanian

population in Kosovo, just one

that you think is reasonable enough to

sit down at the table with and discuss

the resolution of the conflicts that

exist in Kosovo?’’ That representative

of Mr. Milosevic could not think of one

name in all of Kosovo that would be an

appropriate interlocutor for peaceful

discussions of the resolution of conflicts.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that

conflict has not been resolved, if one

side could not find one person with

whom to discuss reasonable resolution?

The recent violence has shattered

this status quo, and we are now faced

with a possibility of further violence in

Kosovo which could spill over into

neighboring Macedonia and, indeed, Albania

itself. Clearly, Slobodon

Milosevic has fomented hatred between

the people of the former Yugoslavia as

a means to maintain power and ward

off democratic development in Serbia

itself.

In 1989, as has been said by my friend

from New York, whose leadership has

been so outstanding on this issue,

Milosevic unilaterally and illegally revoked

Kosovo’s previous autonomy. He

made discrimination against ethnic Albanians,

who constitute 90 percent of

the population of Kosovo, official policy.

Discrimination was and is now official

policy of the government in Belgrade.

He has repressed freedom of speech,

and his police force has arbitrarily harassed,

detained, tortured and, yes, even

murdered innocent Albanians on a regular

basis. The recent massive attacks

by Serbian police and paramilitary

units are said to be in response to the

formation of the Kosovo Liberation

Army, which seeks to fight repression

with terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, terrorism in any form

must be condemned loudly and unequivocally.

Violence by either sides

will only beget more violence. That

said, however, the magnitude of the response

by the Serbian authorities is

reprehensible. The attacks on several

Albanian villages, which left dozens

dead, including women and children,

and many others injured or displaced,

is an absolute and undeniable contravention

of the standard for the behavior

of governments, as stated in

Helsinki Final Act and numerous

United Nations documents. They are to

be condemned, and those responsible

must face consequences.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution calls for

the maintenance of sanctions against

the Government of Serbia, the reestablishment

of the OSCE mission, and the

immediate implementation of the

agreement on education.

I also support the contact group’s

call for the prosecution of war criminals,

war criminals present in Yugoslavia,

not just by definition of us on

the floor, but of our own State Department

under the Bush administration

and under this administration. Mr.

Speaker, I believe what has happened

in Kosovo constitutes crimes against

humanity, and the Hague-based tribunal

should have authority to prosecute.

Finally, I agree with the contact

group’s recommendation of an adaption

of the mandate for UNPREDEP, the

U.N. peacekeeping force in neighboring

Macedonia, which has, as we know, a

U.S. contingent. If Kosovo explodes, its

potential for direct spillover into

neighboring countries is actually

greater than it was for Bosnia, and we

must be prepared for that threat.

Mr. Speaker, given our witness to the

horrors which took place in Bosnia, we

should be aware of the dangers in

Kosovo, and we must not fail to act.