Mr. Speaker, recent reports of atrocities against

Kosovo civilians by Serb security forces are certainly appalling. It is further evidence

of President Milosevic’s criminality in

repressing ethnic Albanians.

It is entirely understandable why

many people would therefore support

military intervention by the United

Nations or by NATO with U.S. leadership. But it is very important to realize

that such military action, if it were to

occur with U.S. forces, needs to be a

decision taken by the Congress, not by the President.

Air strikes within the borders of

Yugoslavia in order to stop attacks by

Serbian forces against civilians in an

area that the United States recognizes

as sovereign Yugoslav territory simply

could not be construed as ‘‘defensive’’

within the inherent authority of the

President as Commander in Chief.

Rather, they would be offensive in nature, involving the invasion of the air

space of a nation which has not attacked the United States.

That is the sort of action which falls

within the exclusive powers of the Congress under the United States Constitution.