Mr. Speaker, I

rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1166.

The international community has affirmed the

territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia

many times, and Georgia has sought in good

faith a peaceful resolution of the conflicts with

its regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The Georgian Government has made generous

proposals regarding internationally guaranteed

autonomy, political representation, and

the constitutional status of the regions.

I am deeply concerned that the Government

of Russia has not responded with equal good

faith. It has consistently undermined Georgian

sovereignty over these regions, for example,

by giving people in these regions Russian citizenship,

passports, voting rights, and even

economic subsidies. The Russian Government

has provided leaders, volunteers, and arms to

separatist movements in these regions, and

threatened to establish ‘‘official ties’’ with the

Abkhazian and South Ossetian regions. According

to reliable reports, the Russian Government

has shot down unmanned drones

over Georgian territory. It is outrageous for

one state to undertake such hostile actions

against a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Secretary

of State did the right thing when she recently

committed the United States to Georgia’s

territorial integrity and sovereignty, and

that the House will reaffirm American support

for Georgia and condemn the Russian Government’s

unjust and destabilizing actions.

Over and over again, we have seen how there

are always people who are quick to make excuses

for the Russian Government’s unjust

actions toward the small nations on its border—

or toward the Russian people themselves.

In the communist era, and since 1991,

there have always been people who argued

that, if we will just look the other way, allowing

the Russian Government to do as it likes in

some ‘‘sphere of influence,’’ the Russian Government

will respond by becoming become

kinder, gentler, and more peaceful.

The historical record belies this argument.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, President Reagan,

Pope John Paul II, Father Gleb Yakunin, the

refuseniks in Russia in the 1970s and 1980s,

the brave and beleaguered Russian human

rights movement today—these people spoke

the truth to and about the Russian Government.

They have done more to promote peace

and justice in the former Soviet Union than all

those who argued for silence and compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this

House is today choosing their road. What the

Russian Government is doing to undermine

Georgia is wrong, it is outrageous, and it must

stop.