Mr. Speaker, for the last

several weeks the world has watched in

horror as innocent civilians, men,

women, and children, have been slaughtered

in the province of Kosova in Europe.

Forty thousand people are now

fleeing their homes, are now refugees.

Kosova is a province of 2 million people,

90 percent of whom are ethnic Albanian,

controlled totally and dominated

by the Serbs, living under tremendous

oppression. Serbian President

Slobodan Milosevic uncorked ethnic

cleansing in Bosnia, and here it is happening

again in Kosova.

The people of Kosova, the Albanians,

have no rights. They have no political

rights, no civil rights, no economic

rights. They are truly a people under

oppression. Unemployment is 80 percent.

They have tried for years peaceful

resistance. It has not worked. Now

their plight is worse than ever. The

tens of thousands of Serb troops in

Kosova have fired the opening shots,

Mr. Speaker, in a renewed campaign of

ethnic cleansing.

I have warned for years that Kosova

was a powderkeg. Unless the U.S. and

the international community intervene

now to ward off a catastrophe,

Milosevic will carry out there what he

did in Bosnia, a horrific campaign of

ethnic cleansing and genocide. Two

hundred thousand people died in Bosnia.

It could be worse in Kosova if we

let it happen.

Thankfully, President Clinton reaffirmed

last week during his meeting

with Abraham Rugova, President of

the Republic of Kosova, that the U.S.

would not permit what happened in

Bosnia to recur in Kosova. President

Clinton was right.

But the time, Mr. Speaker, has come

to put our money where our mouth is.

The ethnic cleansing has begun. The

burning of villages has begun. The expulsion

of tens of thousands of ethnic

Albanians has begun. The halting of

humanitarian convoys has begun. All

of this is how it started in Bosnia. The

United States must now act.

In December, 1992, President Bush

warned Serb strongman Milosevic that

if he vastly increased the military repression

in Kosova, the U.S. would respond

in kind. This threat, known as

the Christmas warning, formed the

basis of U.S. foreign policy in the region.

President Clinton reiterated the

Christmas warning when he entered office.

Time and time again State Department

officials have noted that U.S.

policy has not changed.

Today I say the Christmas warning

has been triggered. To live up to our

pledge to the people of Kosova and

maintain our credibility in the region

by meeting this solemnly pledged commitment,

it is time we act.

Here is what we must do. We must

strike with NATO air strikes. Today

Serbian tanks and artillery are leveling

villages, setting houses ablaze, and

slaughtering innocent civilians. We

should now utilize our assets in the region

by destroying these weapons of

war in the field and as they sit in their

staging compounds.

We must declare a no-fly zone over

Kosova. Serbian attack helicopters

have been used against innocent civilians.

This must stop. Furthermore,

fighter aircraft have been moved into

Kosova. American aircraft in the region

must halt any of these flights.

We must reimpose the investment

ban on Serbia. Milosevic’s only access

to hard currency has been through

international investment. Unless serious

progress is made to resolve the

Kosova crisis, no additional international

investment should be permitted.

The outer wall of sanctions on

Serbia ought to be maintained, and we

ought to reimpose the inner wall of

sanctions.

We ought to utilize the war crimes

tribunal. Milosevic and his henchmen

should be fully accountable for their

actions in Kosova, and should be prosecuted

for any war crimes they commit.

We need to get international monitors

back in Kosova. In July of 1993

Milosevic spelled OSCE monitors from

Kosova. Now more than ever they must

return so they can report to the world

on the brutality now being committed,

and to prevent further acts of atrocity

from being committed.

On Wednesday, the Washington Post

ran an editorial which I believe accurately

captured the Kosova crisis, and

what U.S. policy should be in response.

The editorial said, ‘‘Sanctions are in

any case mostly beside the point. Only

the credible threat of force and the use

of force, if necessary, can deter Mr.

Milosevic. The U.S. can intervene now,

as it has said it would, or, as in Bosnia,

it can be forced to intervene later,

after much damage has been done and

any solution is far more difficult.’’

Mr. Speaker, along with 25 of my colleagues,

I am sending a letter to the

President making these recommendations.

Two months ago we requested a

meeting with the President to discuss

Kosova. Today we look forward to

hearing from the White House when

that meeting will be scheduled.

The genocide and ethnic cleansing in

Kosova must stop and only we and

NATO can stop it. The time for diplomatic

niceties is over. We must act

now.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following

for the Record: