Mr. Speaker, as the

ranking member on the House Foreign

Affairs Committee, I want to associate

myself with the remarks of President

Obama last night in his speech to the

Nation.

I, like everyone else, hope that a diplomatic

solution can be found and that

somehow, between Russia, Syria and

the United States, we can find common

ground where Assad will not have his

weapons of mass destruction and will

be put under international control.

But if this is possible, I believe it was

only possible because there is a credible

threat of U.S. military might, and

that causes the equation of both the

Russians and the Syrians to think

about the United States.

And that’s why I believe so strongly

that if this falls apart, we need to

strike in Syria to let Assad know that

it is unacceptable to gas the civilian

population. It is indeed a war crime.

Many of us today watched pictures of

children foaming at the mouth and

dying and shaking, and it’s just something

that will live with me for the

rest of my life.

So I think what the President’s proposing

is balanced; it’s moderate. I will

vote ‘‘yes,’’ and I urge my colleagues to

do the same.