Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to oppose the President’s action

in Syria.

I just returned from the Middle East,

meeting with heads of state in Qatar,

Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and

our ambassador to NATO. I’m firmly

convinced that any action on our part

will further destabilize Syria and cause

a collapse of the government. What

will happen then? What will happen is

that country will then fall in the hands

of Hezbollah, Hamas, al Qaeda, and the

Muslim Brotherhood.

At the end of the day, what’s important,

Mr. Speaker, is who has control

of those weapons of mass destruction.

While what Mr. Assad has done has

been barbaric and evil, we will never

forgive ourselves for the havoc that

will be played upon this world if those

weapons fall into the hands of Islamic

extremists. We need to work together

collectively to address the problem of

identifying and finding those weapons

of mass destruction and securing those

for the future.

There are many people who are living

outside of their country now as refugees.

There are tens of thousands of

able men who could be recruited to be

a part of that solution.