Mr. Speaker, democracy

is struggling to take root in

Kosova despite the continued pattern

of Serb violence against the ethnic Albanian

population. Parliamentary and

presidential elections are scheduled to

be taken in Kosova on March 22. This

will be the first general election this

volatile region has had since 1992 and it

represents a landmark event for the 90

percent Albanian population in Kosova

in their struggle for freedom and independence.

Today we are just hearing reports of

artillery shelling and aerial bombing of

villages, part of a continuing pattern of

violence against the ethnic Albanian

population by the Serbs. This must

stop. I call upon President Clinton to

initiate strong measures, including

tougher sanctions against the Belgrade

government of President Milosevic.

For the sake of the ethnic Albanian

people in Kosova and a lasting peace in

this troubled region, we cannot allow

this violence to continue.