Mr. Speaker, this afternoon

I received the following message

from Jason Miko with Mercy Corps

International on the situation in

Kosovo.

A Mother Theresa Society convoy of

food aid was stopped and the aid was

confiscated by the Yugoslav police

forces on a road between Prishtina and

Schtime. The four-truck convoy, three

10-ton trucks, one 5-ton truck, and one

Range Rover, belonging to Mercy

Corps, an international relief agency,

and driven by Mercy Corps staff, was

held by the police.

The convoy was destined for the

Mother Theresa Society warehouse in

Schtime when it was stopped at a police

check point, police, called the financial/

marketing police, which is another

branch within the government,

who came from a nearby town. The

convoy was then impounded. The police

told them to come back next Tuesday

and took their documents, which were

in order, without giving them a receipt

for the food aid or the documents.

Mr. Speaker, that food aid is probably

lost forever, and, meanwhile, the

ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo

continues to suffer from the oppression

of Serbian President Milosevic. The incidents

I have described are but the

latest example of that oppression.

Earlier this week, there were new reports

of rapidly escalating acts of violence

and murder perpetuated by Serbian

military and police forces in

Kosovo against innocent, defenseless

civilians, including women and children.

These actions represent a serious setback

to achieving a lasting peace in

Kosovo, as well as a major obstacle to

any negotiations on easing the sanctions

against the Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia.

I understand that there are two sides

to the dispute in Kosovo, but cultural

or historic differences should not be an

excuse for bombing defenseless villages

and schools and killing innocent people

who want nothing more than to live

and raise their families in peace and

security, while having a say in their

government.

Mr. Speaker, Milosevic must stop his

military campaign against the ethnic

Albanians in Kosovo. He must negotiate

a lasting and peaceful solution

that recognizes the rights of all

Kosovans.