Mr. Speaker, an exodus from Kosovo of biblical proportions

is taking place. Thousands upon thousands of refugees stream across the

border 24 hours a day.

There was a newspaper headline in Europe that said ``Europe's turn in

the killing fields.'' That writer must have seen what I saw, a

catastrophe that should have been anticipated. Ethnic Albanian refugees

from Kosovo are now paying a heavy price for this poor judgment.

I just returned from a 4-day visit to the Balkans. I went to focus on

humanitarian conditions and the massive numbers of refugees flooding

out of Kosovo each day. I traveled to Kukes and Morina on the Kosovo-

Albania border. And when I left, an estimated 270,000 to 300,000

refugees had crossed the border.

The scene there is heart-wrenching. Our first introduction was the

stench, the overpowering smell of urine and feces from refugees with no

place to go to the bathroom. In many places the ground was covered with

feces. It will not be long before disease breaks out, especially among

the people who are already dehydrated, malnourished, and sick. Four

cases of measles had been confirmed as of last Tuesday.

Refugees are everywhere, camped on hillsides, along the road, in

parks and plazas, and in parking lots. Most arrive as an extended

family in carts and trailers being pulled by farm tractors or, in some

cases, by horses. Some arrive in cars, but many are on foot, an

unending procession of people who had been threatened; and many have

been separated from their families.

Everyone had a bad story. There is no need to document the reports,

but every report was different: ``I lost my husband.'' ``I lost my

wife.'' ``I lost my son.'' ``I lost my daughter.'' And we should now

have people documenting that for a war crimes trial but also for

history.

The country of Albania has responded admirably to this entire crisis.

It is a poor country but it has opened up its heart and its homes.

Still, in spite of the tremendous effort of people on the scene, the

refugee situation is still a disaster. The Clinton administration, the

international community, and NATO were ill prepared to deal with this

crisis they should have anticipated. The information was there, but

those who decided the course of events, particularly the Clinton

administration, did not listen.

People on the ground in Kosovo before the bombing campaign began

warned that the Serbs could begin to brutalize ethnic Albanians.

Some comments and suggestions:

The brutality has been taking place for too long. Serbian President

Milosevic is the father of the Kosovo tragedy, as he was in Bosnia and

even before. Beginning in the fall of 1991, when Serbs shelled and

bombed and laid siege to Vukovar, he has continued this pattern of

destruction. This is just another chapter.

Two, Milosevic is an evil man who has directly caused nearly a decade

of terror and killing. Nine Serb generals have just been warned that

they may be named as war criminals. Should Milosevic head the list? And

the answer is ``yes.''

Three, there is a life-and-death crisis in Albania. President Clinton

should immediately send a high-level delegation of NSC, State

Department, and Defense to go on the scene, people who can

make decisions.

Four, massive amounts of infrastructure supplies and communications

equipment are needed at the border, along with people to assemble and

operate.

Five, there is a huge shortage of food and people are starving today.

But once the influx of refugees ends, the problem of sustaining them

for a longer period is no less critical.

Six, refugees report that a vast number of houses and buildings and

infrastructures have been destroyed. Every family said, ``My house had

been burned.'' ``My house had been destroyed.'' We need to help them

rebuild, and that will take a long time for them to return.

Seven, it is doubtful that Kosovo can ever again be part of the

Yugoslav Federation. It will take a long time to implement workable

solutions. In time, Albanians will tire of having to deal with the

refugees who infringe upon their normal life. Most Kosovo refugees have

no documentation, no identity cards, no medical history, no records.

This will take a long time to reconstruct. And everyone I spoke to said

they want to go home.

Lastly, we must do everything possible to help the suffering

refugees. These victims of war have lost their homes, their

livelihoods, and in many cases their identities. Additionally, having

witnessed firsthand their struggle to survive and having seen their

fear and their tears, I believe our country, the United States of

America, and NATO's resolve with our partners must be to stop once and

for all the brutality of Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the Record the following report of our

visit to Albania: