Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern over the conditions

in the Balkans. I am particularly concerned with the continued

deterioration in the lives of ethnic Albanian refugees ripped from

their homes in Kosovo at the direction of Serbia President Milosevic. I

have been concerned enough to visit this troubled region twice in the

past 2 months. I watched conditions get worse and worse and worse.

Reports indicate that half a million refugees have fled Kosovo for

Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, with many more than that uprooted and

hiding in terror in Kosovo. And the free world has found no way to stem

this fall into despair for over a million men, women and children.

Relief efforts are underway to help the refugees. Mr. Speaker, while

it may be too late and too little, help is beginning to be provided.

But nothing has worked to date to overturn the root cause. Milosevic

has campaigned to drive ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo in a manner so

evil that fear will linger in their hearts forever.

NATO and Clinton administration efforts thus far have not stopped the

brutality. Despite daily briefings to the contrary, bombing in Serbia

is just not going that well. At the rate things are going, it may take

a long time to stop Milosevic, and the refugees do not have forever.

For too many, time has already run out. The Clinton administration has

so many times ruled out the use of ground troops that Milosevic may

have been emboldened by what he perceives as a lack of commitment by

the other side to win. I fear that the Clinton administration has no

clear strategy or idea as to what it will take to win in the Balkans.

Last Friday I called the White House and spoke with someone on the

National Security Council about this issue. I asked if they had sought

outside thinking from knowledgeable and previously experienced people,

such as Warren Christopher, George Shultz, Larry Eagleburger and

others, including battle-proven former military commanders. I was told

they had not, but this idea might be an idea they would entertain. To

my knowledge they have not followed up.

I personally would have chosen a different plan than the current

effort of trying to bomb Milosevic into compliance. I believe a

fiercely enforced embargo might have been a better first step. An

effort to induce Milosevic to step aside by telling him he would have

been forcibly pursued and taken and tried as a war criminal would have

also been worth trying. But NATO and the Clinton administration chose

another course that has led to where we are today.

Even though the results are so far not what we would like to see, we

are committed to the effort and cannot back off. We must win, not only

for the sake of the refugees and for stability in Eastern Europe, but

now for the credibility of both the U.S. and NATO. If credibility is

lost, will there not follow a host of other tyrants eager to challenge

the will of the free world in pursuit of their own gain?

Today I call on President Clinton to assemble a group of American

leaders knowledgeable of and with proven ability in foreign affairs,

diplomacy, warfare and statecraft to provide counsel and direction to

the Balkan effort which now seems to be stalled. I hope he considers

men and women of high stature and achievement such as George Shultz,

Warren Christopher, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Senator Sam Nunn, Casper

Weinberger, Bob Zoellick, Morton Abramowitz, William Perry, Frank

Carlucci, Max Kampelman, Paul Wolfowitz, Lee Hamilton, Robert Hunter,

James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, Jeane Kirkpatrick, former Admiral

William Crowe, former General Schwarzkopf and former General Colin

Powell. These would be men and women who would sit at the table with

their President not to criticize what has or not been done, but to

suggest a workable plan for the future. They would offer privileged

counsel to the President rather than critical critique to the press.

They would help define an acceptable way to end the Balkan strategy.

All Americans want to bring peace to the Balkans and help the

refugees from Kosovo. Mr. President, I call on you and I urge you to

call on some of the best people in America to help show the way, and

please, please do it soon.