Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Con. Res. 21,

which has been offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr.

Gejdenson) to authorize military air operations against the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia.

I am not a hawk, not by any stretch of the imagination, and I have

been a peace activist for years. I do not support a full-scale war with

Serbia. We are not in a full-scale war, and I hope it can be averted. I

believe, however, we should do everything possible to avoid taking any

actions that would create a full-scale war.

However, I vowed that I would never again remain silent in the face

of genocide, and the Albanians in Kosovo are clearly facing genocide.

The United States did not act quickly enough to stop the Holocaust

during World War II. Throughout the 1930s, persecution against the Jews

in Nazi Germany continued to escalate, yet the world community did

nothing. Even after the United States entered the war, we did not take

any action to shut down the gas chambers. As a result of this genocide,

6 million Jews were murdered.

Between April and June of 1994, the Tutsi people of Rwanda were

systematically slaughtered. Throughout the months of April and May of

that year, the U.S. Government failed to support any action to stop

this genocide. The United Nations finally authorized the peacekeeping

force, but it was too late to save the lives of 1 million Rwandan

people who were slaughtered.

Kosovo is not the only place where genocide is happening today. The

Government of Sudan is conducting a genocidal war against the people of

southern Sudan. More than 1.5 million people have been killed since

1983 as a result of aerial bombings, massacres and attacks on civilian

villages. The survivors of these attacks are routinely murdered or

taken to northern Sudan and sold into slavery.

We cannot allow genocide to be ignored. I know there are limits to

what the United States can do to stop genocide. Although war is not

always the answer to oppression, we know that silence can never be the

answer.

We must take action to stop genocide in Kosovo. That is why I support

the President's efforts and the efforts of our troops to stop those

deplorable crimes.