Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the

time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution

21, the resolution offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr.

Gejdenson), and in opposition to the three other resolutions.

Now is not the time to run from the atrocities being committed by the

sole remaining tyrant of Europe, or to limit our military options.

Quite frankly, I am proud to support the NATO mission in Kosovo. It

speaks to our values and principles as a Nation, and to our role as a

leader of the NATO alliance.

I am proud of our young men and women in U.S. and NATO uniform who

are being asked once again to restore the peace and stability in

Europe. Twice in the first half of the 20th century young American

soldiers were sent to Europe to restore that peace at a cost of 525,000

lives and over 900,000 casualties.

After the Second World War this Nation stood up and declared, never

again. Never again can we afford to disengage from the continent of

Europe and hope everything will just be all right. Never again will we

stand idly by while innocent men and women are forcibly removed from

their homes and wiped out by military forces under a policy of

genocide.

Elie Wiesel, the Nazi concentration camp survivor, reminded us last

week that the only miserable consolation that they had in those

concentration camps had during the Second World War was the belief that

if the western democracies knew what was taking place, they would do

everything in their power to try to stop it.

History later showed that the Western leaders did know, but did not

take action. This time, he said, the democracies do know. We are

acting. We are intervening. And this time we are on the right side of

history.

Mr. Speaker, today we face very serious votes. It is a rendezvous

with history. This can be NATO's finest hour, or it may be the

beginning of the end of the U.S. involvement in maintaining the peace

and stability on the European continent. Let us hope that this is our

and NATO's finest hour. I encourage my colleagues to support Senate

Concurrent Resolution 21.

Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this resolution which

passed the Senate last week with bipartisan support. But let us step

back and take a long-term view of the Balkans.

Milosevic is the only tyrant left in Europe. Who amongst us predicted

10 years ago that some of the most reprehensive Communist regimes in

Central Europe would today be thriving democracies and members of the

European Union and NATO. That is the trend in Europe and that is my

long-term prediction for the Balkans as well. One tyrant cannot stop it

for long.

But in the meantime we have some short-term objectives.

Peace and humanity will prevail in Kosovo.

The refugees will go home.

They will have security.

And they will have self-autonomy.

And, Mr. Milosevic, these terms are not negotiable.

NATO will prevail.

Mr. Speaker, I am just in my second term here in the United

States and I have to state that tonight I have never been more

embarrassed to be a Member of this institution based on the vote that

we just cast a few minutes ago.

Has partisan politics so permeated this culture that we cannot see

the long-term vision of what is happening in Europe? Milosevic is the

only surviving tyrant left on the continent. He is surrounded by

democracies.

Who amongst us 10 years ago could have predicted that some of the

most repressive Communist regimes in central Europe would be

flourishing democracies and members of the European Union and NATO

today?

That is the inevitable course of events in Europe. And we have a

role. Peace and humanity will prevail in Kosovo. The refuges will go

home. They will have security. They will have self-autonomy.

And, Mr. Milosevic, make no mistake about this vote tonight, that is

not negotiable; the U.S. and NATO will prevail, or God help us all.