Mr. Speaker, I wish to share my thoughts about the

current situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and more

specifically, my deep concern about the role of the United States

military in the ongoing conflict.

There are no easy answers to the questions posed by the country's

civil war and the reprehensible actions of Slobodan Milosovic.

Thousands of Kosovars have been killed and driven out of their homes

and out of their homeland. We see their suffering every night on the

evening news. And we keep asking, ``What can we do?''

Without second guessing the decisions of the President and his

national security team, I think it is important that we look at the

status of this military action realistically. After more than a month

of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, the suffering of the Kosovars has not

been eased. More refugees are being forced out of Kosovo every day,

destabilizing other countries in the region. We are now learning that

NATO bombing is killing innocent civilians.

The Constitution requires that Congress act on matters of war.

Accordingly, Congress has two options to address the current

situation--one, declare war; or two, withdraw our troops.

Declaring war on Yugoslavia is not an option. Yugoslavia has not

attacked the United States, and the President has never made the case

that it is in the vital interest of the U.S. to declare war.

Instead, today I voted to withdraw U.S. troops from Yugoslavia

because we are not at war, and yet there is no mistake that the

President is indeed waging war with our troops. In fact, ninety percent

of the NATO missions are flown by U.S. pilots. Until the President

explains to Americans why this military action is necessary, why we are

bombing a sovereign nation, and how success is determined in this

mission, I do not believe U.S. troops should be participating in this

military action.

This current situation in Kosovo highlights an even larger and

looming problem with our national defense policy. I am concerned that

the President has stretched our national defense to the breaking point.

We have too many deployments by too few troops who are under-trained

and ill-equipped to put out fires in every corner of the world. Since

1991, U.S. troops have been deployed 33 times--compare that to only 10

deployments during the forty years of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, the United States needs a consistent foreign policy and

understanding of our role in the world. That need is more evident today

than every before. I am pleased that the U.S. Congress today is

fulfilling its role in helping determine that policy, and would hope

that the President would do the same.