Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago Nazi Germany prepared for

the invasion of Poland that thrust the world into darkness, despair and

death. We put our heads in the sand. It wasn't our problem.

It became our problem, and before it was over more than 50 million

people lost their lives. At the heart of Hitler's madness was the

conscious decision to kill every Jew in Europe. He almost succeeded.

Sixty years ago we did not have NATO and the United States was not

the pre-eminent world leader. But once again we have a European leader

whose rise to power is premised on the forced dislocation, rape,

torture, and murder of an internal ethnic and religious minority. This

time it is the ethnic Albanians, who are for the most part Muslim.

How should we respond to this challenge? We could hide in the sand.

Or we could take action in the name of humanity. That is what we have

done. We have acted properly by using our military to end the

atrocities. We must now complete the job. We must fight to win. Ending

our participation would be a horrible disaster--for the United States,

for Europe, and for the ethnic Albanians we seek to help. It is not in

our character to duck and run. Rather, we should take a stand for

democracy, for hope, and for a secure Europe.

We have spent considerable effort trying to reach a peaceful

settlement. The ethnic Albanians accepted a compromise. The Serbs

rejected it. This is not a new problem and this bombing campaign is not

a knee jerk response. President Bush, as he was leaving office,

threatened military action against the Milosovic regime, and President

Clinton and other world leaders have repeated that threat numerous

times.

Sometimes you need to back up a threat with action. And that is

precisely what President Clinton has done. He has not acted alone, but

with the unanimous consent and widespread participation of our NATO

allies. I am proud that we have taken a stand against inhumanity and

for basic human rights. We waited to take action in Bosnia, at the cost

of many lives, and once we did, we were able to end the daily horrors.

As President Clinton observed, if a united force had moved to stop

Hitler early, we might have spared the world its darkest hour.

Our military must remain fully ready to respond to traditional

threats to our national security. But we must not be afraid or

unwilling to take action to stop or prevent genocide where we can make

a difference. We cannot solve every world problem, but we also cannot

therefore refuse ever to act. A European genocide, as we should have

learned, can destabilize the entire world.