Mr. Speaker, in Kosovo, the United States is

bearing most of the burden in a region of the world where there are no

American security interests at stake.

Our pilots and planes account for at least 80 percent of the air

strikes against Yugoslavia. And our taxpayers are picking up the bill

for most of the costs of the war. Yet our NATO allies in Europe have

almost twice as many men and women in uniform as we do.

The U.S. cannot always be the supercop patrolling the world. Our NATO

allies should do more, and America less.

Unlike Iraq, which attacked other countries and where our national

security was at risk

because of Iraq's control of our oil supply, Kosovo has no similar

claims to American intervention.

America may have a humanitarian responsibility to help bring

stability to the region, but we have no obligation to carry the

heaviest load. Our NATO allies have more reason to intervene and are

capable of doing so. They should shoulder more of the burden.

After five weeks of bombing, we now know that our stated goals in

Kosovo have turned to ashes. Our hostile actions against Yugoslavia, we

were told by the Administration, would stop the exodus of refugees and

bring the surrender of Yugoslavia within days. The Administration has

failed in its mission. Our actions likely have made the situation

worse.

A realistic solution is to seek a negotiated settlement that protects

the rights of Kosovars to remain safely in their homeland. There is

much we can do to encourage this without declaring war: provide

logistical support to our allies, seize Yugoslavia's assets in foreign

banks, and encourage Russia, Yugoslavia's historical ally, to medicate

a peace agreement.

For Congress to declare war and give the President a blank check

would continue America's level of involvement and even escalate it. In

fact, the President announced yesterday he is calling up 32,000

reservists. That's not the direction we should be going.

Based upon numerous conversations with many constituents, I sense a

growing unease with putting the lives of Americans at risk, especially

when our objections are not being achieved.

Our allies should take responsibility for a greater share of the war

effort and the U.S. should do more to bring about a negotiated

settlement.