Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Armed

Services, I rise in support of this resolution to prohibit the use of

funds for the deployment of ground troops in Yugoslavia unless

specifically approved by Congress.

Now, this does not prohibit ground troops from ever going into this

area for combat, but if the people of America are going to be sent into

war, it seems to me the representatives of the people of America should

be in a position to approve that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I believe we

should actually remove our forces from that area that are already

there.

In the last 6 years the manner in which this administration has

circumvented Congress when it comes to deployment of the U.S. military

forces around the world has been unprecedented, so it should come as no

surprise that the House is here on the floor pleading to at least have

a say in the process.

The President is the commander-in-chief, but Congress should not

relax in its role as a consultative partner when it comes to the

deployment of our servicemen and women.

So I agree with this measure wholeheartedly, but I want to talk about

why I believe that we should not be there at all.

In any military exercise, there should be a clear, succinct mission

and exit strategy, similar to our successful efforts in Desert Storm.

The Kosovo plan, and I hesitate to even call it that much, does not

have a clear mission, clear goals, a way to measure accomplishment

standards, or an exit strategy.

For United States ground forces to enter that region, I also believe

a more stable environment must be achieved by diplomatic means. This is

not a desert. Our technological superiority will only give us so much

of an advantage in the rugged terrain of Yugoslavia. It will not take

only 4 days, as it did in the Gulf. The Serb army has entrenched itself

over hundreds of years, and, unlike in Iraq, they appear to have

complete loyalty to their leader, Mr. Milosevic. In other words, if we

go into this hostile situation, we will lose American troops.

Look at the history. Hitler had many, many divisions in Yugoslavia

during the Second World War, and look how much good that did him.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would all support this measure.