Mr. Speaker, I emphatically oppose H.R. 1569. This

bill is a slap in the face of the commander's ability to use a combined

armed force in battle. Conflicts are not won by air, land or sea forces

alone. It is a joint nature of a combined arms campaign that provides

the flexibility and firepower for a commander to accomplish his or her

mission, responding to a changing environment.

This bill is not well crafted or thought out. Passage of this bill

would seriously degrade the operational commander's ability to respond

to any and all contingencies. It would not allow us to pursue attacking

enemy forces across international borders, thus giving Milosevic a safe

area. It will not allow us to rapidly introduce ground troops even in a

permissive environment. It will hamstring the operational commander's

ability to adopt and adapt to the ever-changing situation in the

Balkans.

This is not a preemptive strike against the use of ground troops as

it is advertised. It is a preemptive strike on the flexibility to

respond to emergency conditions. It is a preemptive strike on the

safety of our troops. It is a preemptive strike which will make Mr.

Milosevic very happy.