Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1569, a bill

that would prohibit the appropriated funds of the Department of Defense

from being used to deploy ground troops to Yugoslavia without the

consent of Congress.

I still have grave concerns about NATO actions in Kosovo because I

see no direct U.S. interests at stake, no clearly defined mission and

no exit strategy. After five weeks of bombing, there is no evidence

that our actions are either convincing Slobodan Milosevic to agree to a

peace treaty or protecting the thousands of ethnic Albanians who are

fleeing Kosovo. The recent deployment of Apache helicopters, tanks,

artillery and armored personnel carriers to the Balkans, and the

Monday's call up of 33,000 reservists, is clear evidence that President

Clinton intends to introduce ground forces to Kosovo itself sometime in

the near future. H.R. 1569 simply requires the President to consult

Congress before he does so.

While I abhor the ethnic violence and the forced eviction of ethnic

Albanians from Kosovo, I am still not convinced that this situation

merits sending in U.S. ground troops. With that said Mr. Speaker, I

urge the passage of this bill because it sends a clear and concise

message to President Clinton--that Congress has a constitutional role

to play and that the President must get the authorization of the

Congress before he can commit ground troops to Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1569.