Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I find considerable irony in the question of what is our

national interest in Kosovo, for I thought we unequivocally answered

that question with American blood and American tax dollars.

If we have no national interest in Kosovo, why did we lose so many

lives in Europe in two World Wars? If we have no national interest in

Kosovo, why did we spend billions of tax dollars

on the reconstruction of Europe through the Marshall Plan in the

aftermath of World War II? It seems that we have forgotten that the

Balkans are an integral part of Europe, and that Kosovo, as President

Bush first enunciated, is critical to the peace and stability in the

Balkans.

Senator Dole got it right when he testified before the Committee on

International Relations advocating our engagement and involvement in

Kosovo. I am quoting Senator Dole: ``It is in America's interest to

have a stable, democratic and prosperous Europe.''

As did Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who served so well as our U.N.

Ambassador under President Reagan. She stated at that same hearing, and

again I am quoting: ``I think that peace and security and the human

rights of the people in the region and the future of NATO and a

democratic, peaceful, prosperous Europe are all in the balance in

Kosovo.''

We should be proud that it was the United States that helped nurture

prosperity and democratic institutions in Europe in the latter part of

this century, for that investment truly changed the course of history

and has not just benefited Europe, but our Nation and our people.

The prosperity that we have enjoyed in this decade can be partially

traced to the reality of a Europe increasingly democratic in terms of

its political institutions, with economies based on free market

principles. We are joined at the hip, let us be clear about that, but

it is to our mutual advantage. An expanded European Union represents a

future of unprecedented peace and prosperity for a continent that has

been ravaged by war throughout recorded history, and the genocidal

ethnic cleansing of Milosevic is perhaps the final challenge,

hopefully, to achieving that vision.

So when we ask what our national interest is in Kosovo, it is not

simply Kosovo, it is more, much more. It is about Europe and beyond

Europe.

In the so-called Christmas warning of 1992, it was President Bush

that warned Milosevic if he attacked Kosovo, that the U.S. would

support a military intervention, if necessary. Early in his

administration, President Clinton confirmed the Bush warning. It was

the conclusion of both administrations that conflict in Kosovo would

destabilize the entire region and potentially threaten all of Europe.

It would indeed be tragic at this point in time to have defeated

fascism in the 1930s and the 1940s, to have prevailed over communism in

the 1980s, only to lose the peace at the end of the century. We may do

just that by a unilateral withdrawal at this point in time.

I submit that the action would be irresponsible. Dictators worldwide

would cheer. Milosevic would have won. We will have crafted a much more

frightening and troubled future. The Kosovar Albanians would be

condemned to permanent exile or death and genocide.

Again, Senator Dole was particularly eloquent when he spoke to what

was occurring in Kosovo and to the evils of genocide. Again, let me

quote the Senator: ``Now I don't know how many people it takes before

you call it genocide. And I'm reminded of the book, `The Greatest

Generation,' by Tom Brokaw, and I'm proud to be a part of that

generation, and one of the things we failed to do in that generation

was to nip genocide in the bud. It happened, we let it happen, and we

stood back and we did nothing.''

Let us not sometime in the future reflect back on this day with the

same regrets expressed so eloquently by Senator Dole. An earlier

speaker, my friend from Ohio, on the floor stated, ``Let's give peace a

chance.'' I respect him. I respect that sentiment. However, let me

conclude by saying, let us not give genocide a chance. Let us not give

genocide a chance.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me be really clear. This is not a civil war that has been raging.

This is nothing more than state violence and state terrorism against a

class of citizens who are unarmed, for the purpose of forming a pure

enclave, a mini-state, if you will. I daresay the statement that this

is a civil war does a disservice to what occurred before the ascendancy

of Milosevic. There were 1.9 million Albanians and about 200,000 Serbs.

As again Senator Dole testified before the House Committee on

International Relations, they had been living peacefully together until

Milosevic stirred things up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania (Mr. Hoeffel), a respected member of the Committee on

International Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind my colleagues that as a

result of the atrocities and the crimes against humanity committed by

Slobodan Milosevic, there are over 300,000 men, women and children that

are dead in the former Yugoslavia now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

Kucinich), my friend and colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To my colleagues on the other side, I just want to provide a

statement made by the former Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, who

testified and expressed his reservations about this policy. But now

that we have initiated this policy, let me quote from Mr. Kissinger who

made this statement this past Thursday:

``What we need to do now is maintain the principle that ethnic

cleansing does not pay, and therefore, those refugees must be given the

right to return. Secondly, if all of NATO is defeated by Serbia, and

that is what occurs if you have unilateral withdrawal, what will this

mean for the Gulf, for North Korea, and for any other area where rogue

States are held in check by American and, in some cases, NATO military

power? That is the issue now.''

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.