Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the difficult issues

that are before us relative to U.S. involvement in the ongoing NATO

military action in Yugoslavia. The United States, in consultation with

its NATO allies, has determined that the instability caused by the

ethnic cleansing in Kosovo is a threat to the security of Europe.

Governments of NATO agreed unanimously on joint military action over

a month ago, with the intention of forcing the government of Slobodan

Milosevic to end its policy of ethnic cleansing and to allow safe

restoration of the refugees to their homes. The one thing that I think

Americans have learned is that it is wrong to stand idly by while such

atrocities take place before our eyes. History.

Has also taught us that it is better to head off a problem than to

wait until the problem has spread. Today NATO remains committed to

continuing its military operations until its three objectives, safe

return and self-government of the refugees, withdrawal of the

Yugoslavian troops from Kosovo and the insertion of peacekeeping troops

to protect the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are met. I support these

objectives, and I support U.S. military action in order to achieve

them.

How long this action will last, I do not know, but I do know two

things: First, the power to end hostilities lies today with Slobodan

Milosevic. All he has to do is stop the killing and pull his troops

back.

Second, the chances that Mr. Milosevic will meet NATO's demand are

dramatically reduced if Congress enacts legislation that requires the

withdrawal of U.S. forces or ties the administration's hands regarding

NATO's military options.

This is no time to go weak-kneed on our troops in Europe.