Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for this resolution.

I share the concerns of many Third District residents regarding

ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and current North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO) attacks on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

(FRY). Having recently traveled to Tirana, Albania, and Skopje,

Macedonia, I have witnessed firsthand the humanitarian crisis facing

Europe--a crisis that has intensified since the beginning of the allied

bombing campaign. There is no question that the situation is grim.

Slobodan Milosevic is a shrewd and experienced military commander who

has used military power to expel Kosovar Albanians from their homes and

to put extensive defenses in place in Kosovo, significantly enhancing

his military position on the ground.

The President and the other 18 NATO leaders have, on the other hand,

allowed political considerations to govern military decisions,

resulting in NATO's failure to accomplish the goals established by the

President at the outset of the air war. Ethnic cleansing has

accelerated and the FRY military has now fortified its southern

defenses, presenting a greater threat to a potential invasion force

today than was present when NATO bombing began.

Because NATO air strikes have little chance of accomplishing their

stated goals, and because the human and economic costs of launching a

ground campaign far outweigh the potential benefits of such an action,

I believe that the NATO air campaign must stop immediately. It is time

for NATO to seek a negotiated settlement that will stop this expensive

and counterproductive bombing campaign and allow the Kosovar Albanians

to begin to rebuild their lives.