Mr. Speaker, last week in the Committee on International

Relations we listened to Secretary of State Albright explain the

administration's policy. I expressed my concerns to the Secretary about

the difficulty of our objectives, especially given the limited means we

are committing.

Looking back over time at our Nation's wars, and this is a war, we

have been successful when we have had as an objective the destruction

of a regime or when we have had clearly-defined territorial objectives

such as expelling Iraq from Kuwait. In both of these scenarios, though,

in order to accomplish our goals, we used rather massive force,

including ground troops. But in Kosovo we are committing American

resources and prestige and risking American lives, employing what must

be called a very calibrated use of force in order to achieve a very

complex objective: restructuring Kosovo's society.

Given that, my question to the Secretary was: What precedent for

success in our history are we looking at? Are we practicing a theory

here in Kosovo without an historical basis for success? The response

from her: no cases were cited from the real world. Instead, we heard

that the air war is working, when most observers do not believe it to

be the case, and that we need to be patient. Well, patience is what we

had in Vietnam.

Another thing that struck me while listening to the Secretary was

that when there was a difficult question, when our strategy was being

challenged, we'd hear that she'd rather be answering such difficult

questions then answering why we're doing nothing. This response is

backwards. The Secretary of State and the President she works for are

responsible for the resources of the United States of America, and the

lives of our servicemen. I'd rather have the Administration struggle

with answering questions about the tragedy in Kosovo than struggle, and

that is what it's doing, with explaining why we're committing America's

treasure and risking American lives there. Yesterday, and throughout

this crisis, I've heard too much struggling with our basic strategy.

So, faced with this decision today, I cannot sanction the current

policy. Good intentions, and the tragedy in Kosovo is great, cannot

mask flawed policy.