Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution by

Representative Campbell to remove our troops from action in the

Balkans. I'm opposed to applying American military force on behalf of

Kosovo because our goals are unclear and the risks are too great

without any fundamental strategic American interest.

Introduction of ground forces onto what we still recognize as

Yugoslavian soil is a muddled policy. Are we joining a Kosovar war of

liberation, or are we demanding the Yugoslavian national government

delegate an arbitrary level of power to the provincial Kosovo

government?

It is difficult to imagine Kosovars and the Serbs reconciling and co-

existing peacefully and on equal terms after such massive intervention

by the United States. Alternatively if Kosovo or a part of Kosovo were

indeed to gain independence, we don't have any assurance that they

wouldn't try to join a Greater Albania.

I am wary of the side we picked in this Yugoslavian civil war. I do

feel the United States should be a friend to freedom movements

throughout the world. But our support for the Kosovars doesn't seem to

be rooted in any affinity of theirs for freedom or for the United

States. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has links to very suspect

groups, among them heroin smugglers and Middle East terrorists. Should

we be strengthening a group that is supported by Osama bin Laden and

other very dangerous people who hate America?

A strengthened radical Muslim presence in Europe would pose a serious

threat to the interests of the United States and our allies. A

predominately Muslim country is not always hostile to American

interests. Turkey is a long-time and solid ally of the United States.

Several other predominately Muslim countries have also been friends of

the United States. And that is precisely because they have rejected

radical anti-Western elements. The KLA hasn't done that to my

satisfaction.

For these reasons, I urge adoption of the Campbell resolution.