Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 21.

The Congress needs to have a voice in the involvement of the United

States in Operation Allied Force. We should stand up and express our

support for our troops and our allies in NATO.

We must also take this opportunity to show to President Milosevic

that we are united in our belief and determination that this campaign

of terror must be stopped. We must continue to work with our NATO

allies to restore peace to the region, to ensure that the Kosovo

Albanians who want to return to their homes can be allowed to do so

under peaceful circumstances, and we must continue to ensure that Mr.

Milosevic will withdraw his military and paramilitary forces from

Kosovo and, ultimately, provide for self-governance in Kosovo.

To accomplish these goals we must participate in Operation Allied

Force and support the air strikes. We are steadily diminishing the

power of Mr. Milosevic and his military forces. For the United States

to withdraw from this attack at this moment would undermine the entire

NATO effort and would, in effect, validate Mr. Milosevic's inexcusable

and terrible campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Our NATO allies have stepped up to the plate in Kosovo. Leaders of

the NATO alliance have recently reaffirmed their commitment and resolve

to continue the air strikes until we stop President Milosevic. This is

the time for Congress to step up and to endorse those air strikes.

The Senate concurrent resolution authorizes the President to conduct

military air operations and missile strikes against the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia. Passage of this resolution will express our

endorsement of these strikes and send a strong message to President

Milosevic that we are unified with our allies. This will also send a

strong message to our troops in the field.

Fifty years ago we formed NATO to work together for the security of

Europe. The cold war has ended and communism has ended. However, there

is a great need for us to work to assure the safety and stability of

countries in Europe who have been our partners for over 50 years.

We can continue this good work by adopting this resolution today,

sending a message that we are united as a country and determine our

resolve to stop the slaughter in Kosovo.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the House has the

opportunity to debate these important questions before us today. While

I have not supported the first three options before us, I do believe

that Congress needs to have a voice in the involvement of the United

States in Operation Allied Force. We should stand up and express our

support for our troops and our allies in the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO). We must also take this opportunity for Congress to

show Mr. Milosevic that we are united in our belief and determination

that his campaign of terror must be stopped.

We must work with the international community to help restore peace

to the region and to ensure that the Kosovar Albanians who want to

return to their homes are allowed to do so. We must work with our

Allies to force Milosevic to withdraw his military and para-military

forces from Kosovo and to provide self-governance for Kosovo. Mr.

Speaker, we must work together with our Allies in Europe to achieve a

lasting peace in this critical region.

To accomplish these goals, we must continue to participate in

Operation Allied Force and support the air strikes. We are steadily

diminishing the power of Mr. Milosevic and his military forces. For the

United States to withdraw from this operation at this time would, in my

opinion, undermine the entire NATO effort to stem Milosevic and his

campaign of terror against the Albanian population, hand Milosevic a

victory and, in effect, validate his campaign of ethnic cleansing. Mr.

Speaker, I ask my colleagues how we can in good conscience turn our

back on these people and the horrible crimes that are being perpetrated

against the Kosovar Albanians.

While I commend my colleague from California, Mr. Campbell, for

bringing this issue before the House, I urge my colleagues to join me

in opposing both of his resolutions. We should not withdraw our troops

or declare war against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I also oppose H.R. 1569 offered by Representatives Fowler, Goodling,

and Kasich. This bill would prohibit the Department of Defense from

deploying ``ground elements'' in Yugoslavia unless such a deployment is

authorized by Congress, I again urge my colleagues to vote ``no''.

Passing this proposal at this time is at best premature and at worst is

a prescription for failure of our current air strike operation. The

Fowler/Goodling/Kasich bill is unnecessary. Congress ultimately holds

the power of the purse and will continue to have the ability to

withhold funding for this operation. In addition, if events change and

the President decides that ground troops are needed, he should come to

Congress and ask for our support and approval at that time.

Furthermore, if this prohibition of funds were to become law, many

aspects of the current NATO operation could be imperiled. We would be

weakening our own position for future negotiations for a settlement by

removing the threat of possible ground troops in the future. We must

show Milosevic our resolve. We must make it clear to Milosevic that we

intend to prevail and that we are reserving options to accomplish

victory.

The Fowler/Goodling/Kasich bill also puts our current operations in

Yugoslavia at risk. For example, MacDill Air Force Base, located in my

community, is the headquarters for U.S. Special Operations Command--a

unified command that oversees special operations for the Army, Navy and

Air Force. Forces housed at MacDill could very well be involved on the

ground in Yugoslavia and Kosovo in support of our air strikes. I am

concerned that this bill would put their operations and possibly their

lives at peril. We should not limit the ability of the troops already

in and around Yugoslavia as part of our current operation.

Our NATO Allies have stepped up to the plate in Kosovo. Just last

weekend, at the NATO Summit here in Washington, DC, the leaders of the

alliance reaffirmed their commitment and resolve to maintain the air

campaign against Yugoslavia until our objectives are met. Now it is

time for Congress to step up to the plate and endorse the NATO air

strikes against Yugoslavia.

I urge my colleagues to support the Gejdenson Alternative offered in

the form of Senate Concurrent Resolution 21. This Resolution authorizes

the President to conduct military air operations and missile strikes

against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Passage of this Resolution

will express Congress' endorsement of NATO air strikes and send a

strong message to Milosevic that we are unified with our allies.

Adopting this Resolution will reaffirm to our troops carrying out

this mission that Congress supports them. By endorsing the NATO action,

Congress will be sending a message that we are unified as a nation and

determined to stop Milosevic.

Fifty years ago, we formed NATO to work together for the security of

Europe. Today, the Cold War has ended and communism has ended. However,

there is still a great need to work to ensure the safety and stability

of countries in Europe who have been our partners for these 50 years.

We have heard a lot about the fear of Milosevic and his forces crossing

over the borders. Some thought this might be an unfounded fear.

However, we now know that the Serbian forces have crossed over into

Albania, proof that Milosevic has no fear and is quite willing to cross

sovereign borders to continue his atrocious attacks on the people in

this region. The stability of Eastern Europe is at stake and we must

stand by our allies in the region.

I urge this House to show Mr. Milosevic that we stand behind our

military and our allies. Join me in supporting Senate Concurrent

Resolution 21.