Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this

resolution. It is identical to the resolution passed by the other body

in March. It expresses Congress' support for our forces caring out a

brave mission. It sends an important message to Slobodan Milosevic that

his savage campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Kosovar Albanians

will not be tolerated.

Mr. Milosevic continues to wage war on ethnic Albanians. His acts of

violence, mass murder of civilians, driving 950,000 people, whole

communities, from their homes to refugee camps in foreign countries,

have forced our hand. If left unchecked, he will continue his crimes in

Kosovo.

I heard a Member opposed to our mission in Kosovo earlier today

compare this action to the Gulf War and say that the difference was

that we had a national interest in the Gulf; oil. Well, I do not know

the going rate for a barrel of oil today, but I do know that you can

put no price on the lives of men, women and children who have been

slaughtered in Kosovo.

It is in our national interest to stop genocide. We have witnessed a

grave humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and a destabilization of the region

and neighboring countries like Macedonia and Albania.

By endorsing air strikes now, Congress is not tying its hands in the

future. Congress can still and I believe should vote on sending ground

troops if we reach that point in the future.

Vote to authorize air strikes in Yugoslavia. Let our young men and

women in the Armed Forces know that our prayers and our support are

with them as they fight to counter aggression and to foster peace.