Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Gejdenson resolution

to authorize the NATO action in Yugoslavia.

Tragically, we were unable to prevent Serbian forces from brutally

killing thousands of people, forcing innocent people from their

homes, and burning and bombarding countless villages.

Now, we must do everything in our power to put an end to this

tragedy, to halt the mass killings, and hold accountable those

responsible for the unspeakable atrocities that Serbian forces are

committing against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

First, we must aid the refugees in any way that we can. We cannot

allow refugee camps to turn into death camps due to poor sanitation,

the spread of disease, and the lack of food and shelter. I support a

massive humanitarian response to this crisis. The U.S. should do

whatever it takes to bring food, medicine, and shelter to the refugees,

and I support efforts by the United States and other countries to admit

any refugees seeking asylum.

But I am afraid that is not nearly enough.

We have a moral obligation to protect the internally displaced ethnic

Albanians within Kosovo. Those who have not yet been slaughtered must

be protected. We must not allow them to suffer the same fate as so many

other Kosovars.

Unfortunately, we did not act soon enough to address the murderous

actions by Serbia, and today thousands of people are dead because of

international indifference. We ought to create safe havens for ethnic

Albanians inside of Kosovo--and we ought to do it as soon as we can.

This would prevent further expulsions and mass killings. This will not

be easy and will not be without a loss of lives, but it must be done.

We cannot allow the leader of one nation to wipe out an entire ethnic

group. At the end of World War II and the Holocaust, the world made a

collective promise to all future people. We said ``never again'', we

ought to mean it.

However, it is unlikely, at this point, that air strikes alone will

bring an end to this conflict. We ought to consider other options,

including the use of ground forces. We now have to be prepared to

forcefully enter Kosovo and occupy the area in order to make the safe

return of refugees possible. This is not a task that we ought to take

lightly, but it is one that must be done.

NATO must continue to assess the situation and make adjustments as

they see fit. This resolution gives the Administration the flexibility

to respond quickly to any new developments and continue their efforts

on all fronts to resolve this conflict. I urge support for this

resolution.