In 1995, when I served

in the House of Representatives, I and

a large bipartisan majority supported a

resolution which called for President

Clinton to obtain congressional authorization

before deploying troops to Bosnia.

That resolution passed by a vote of

315 yeas to 103 nays.

Yet, despite that vote, President

Clinton went ahead with a large-scale

and long-term deployment of tens of

thousands of troops to Bosnia without

congressional authorization or any

meaningful debate.

Back then, President Clinton spoke

to us and promised us all that we would

have a well-defined mission with a

clear exit strategy. But even today

there are no details on getting our

troops out of Bosnia. We are still there

and President Clinton has spent approximately

$12 billion on that mission

without ever including Bosnia funds in

his budget.

As a result, he is draining crucial defense

resources from other critical

areas and further putting our soldiers

in harm’s way. We still have almost

7,000 troops in Bosnia and we are all

unsure of what their exact mission

really is and when, if ever, they can

come home to their families. So much

for a clearly defined mission and exit

strategy.

But now, all I can say is, ‘‘deja vu’’

and ‘‘here we go again.’’

Right now, American troops are deployed

all over the globe in over 30 nations

on missions of questionable value

and unclear rules of engagement. And

now, President Clinton is about to

scatter roughly 4,000 more troops to intervene

in Kosovo under a NATO mission

to enforce a peace agreement. But

there is no peace agreement to enforce

because one does not exist.

The Serbs and the Albanians have

been fighting in this southern region of

Serbia for centuries. So is it any surprise

that earlier this week in France,

the Serbs would not accept the Kosovo

peace plan that their rival ethnic Albanians

have agreed to sign?

I do not believe that any amount of

American involvement is going to end

these ethnic conflicts that have raged

for centuries. We have tried to resolve

this problem for three years and have

gotten nowhere. I do not understand

why we think we can end this civil war

by sending 4,000 additional troops.

President Clinton has not given us

any answers as to why sending these

troops to Kosovo is so vital. President

Clinton can tell us any time. But where

is he? He has the bully pulpit.

I do not believe it is in our national

security interest to get involved once

again in another so-called peacekeeping

mission in this region. In a few

years, Kosovo will take its place in history

books, along with Bosnia, Haiti

and Somalia, as an example of a foreign

policy that has no principled

framework.

I want to hear from President Clinton

as to why this region is of a national

security interest to the United

States and why he should risk the lives

of our young troops by sending them to

Kosovo.

And where is the European community

in all of this? It seems as though

we are risking the lives of our soldiers

to clean up Europe’s backyard. If anyone

should take the lead on this intervention,

it should definitely be from a

European nation. This is Europe’s

problem, if anyone’s, and not ours.

Kosovo is not in our backyard.

An American soldier’s job is to protect

America’s interests by destroying

America’s enemies on the battlefield.

It is an insult to ask an American soldier

to serve as a policeman under the

umbrella of some international organization

instead of the American flag.

There are many questions that President

Clinton and his administration

need to answer, and we are being left in

the dark once again.

President Clinton, take these questions

seriously.

When and how many troops are we

deploying and how long will they be

there?

What is their mission?

Will there be more troops deployed if

our goals and missions are not met?

Will foreign commanders be commanding

our troops under this NATO

force?

What are the rules of engagement?

How will this mission be paid for, and

will valuable dollars be pulled away

from military readiness accounts to

pay for this deployment?

What, if any, is our exit strategy?

As you have heard, President Clinton,

I have many questions and I am

not alone. You gave us no details and

answers with regard to the Bosnia mission,

and I fear we, as well, will be

given very little, if any, details regarding

our involvement in Kosovo.

But quite frankly, not getting answers

from President Clinton does not

surprise me.

I do not believe we have a compelling

national interest to send troops to

Kosovo. If they are sent, we all deserve

answers from President Clinton before

our troops are sent into another mess

for years to come.

Our men and women in uniform are

ready and willing to defend the interests

of this great Nation, but not the

interests of other nations. We cannot

undermine the oaths they take when

they are sworn into the military to

serve this great Nation.

President Clinton, do your job, and

let us know what is happening with

Kosovo.

God bless our troops.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence

of a quorum.