Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me begin by

thanking you and our distinguished Ranking Member for providing

us with the opportunity to speak about Kosovo, and certainly to be

here with our colleague and former leader and great Senator and

great fighter for human rights. Senator Dole is a double treat, and

an honor.

Mr. Chairman, today I introduced in the Senate a resolution

stating that the United States has probable cause to believe that

Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has committed

war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and

that he should be publicly indicted by the International Criminal

Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Indeed, I am sorry that we

even assign to him the title of president.

I think that it is incomprehensible and indeed, I am sorry that

in the resolution we refer to him in that manner, but that is only

for purposes of identification, because, Mr. Chairman, I cannot

think of a worse person—you have to really stretch—who has created

more harm, more destruction to more human lives than

Milosevic. It is difficult in this era, and he certainly ranks with the

Pol Pots of the world.

We will be seeking cosponsors for this resolution and I would

hope that we could get a unanimous vote and sponsorship that

would include all of the Members of the Senate and adopt this in

the near future.

Milosevic is the proximate cause for the trouble in Kosovo. It was

his political ambition to create a greater Serbia. He fanned the

smoldering embers of ethnic hatred into a conflagration in Bosnia

that killed and wounded hundreds of thousands of people and displaced

millions, millions of people. I mean, it is hard to believe in

this era, in this day and age, in that area of the world, that we

would allow that to take place. He rode the groundswell of hatred

into political power and then distanced himself from the

ultranationalists whose help he used.

And since then, a coalition of opponents known as Together has

held great street demonstrations in Belgrade attempting to force

his resignation. Milosevic’s party lost important local elections

across Serbia, and to stem this tide of opposition he has now moved

back toward the ultranationalists he once abandoned and denied

the Kosovar Albanian majority any relief from the oppressive police

State that he has established.

Milosevic apparently hoped that these actions would trigger a

violent response from the Kosovar Albanian majority, one he could

use to once again divide and suppress his domestic opposition.

Well, he has got what he wanted, and he is using ethnic hatred

against the Kosovar Albanian majority to shore up his domestic

power base. So far, the United States has treated him as the indispensable

person, a terrible policy, a policy fraught with nothing but

bringing about contempt for anything other than real power, the

one key player without whom there could be peace in Bosnia, and

now without whom there cannot be a peaceful settlement in

Kosovo.

We have talked with him over and over. We have accorded him

the courtesies due a head of State, unfortunately.

Mr. Chairman, it is time to recognize who and what he is, to

make clear to the world that we hold him personally responsible

for the conflict in the Balkans. It is time to end impunity for

Milosevic.

My resolution calls upon the United States to turn over to the

International Criminal Tribunal all of the information we possess

that could serve as evidence against Milosevic, to work with our allies

to cause them to do the same and, once Milosevic is indicted,

to work to secure his apprehension and his trial by the tribunal.

There is a considerable body of evidence on the public record

about Milosevic’s role in first the Bosnian and now the Kosovo conflicts.

It has been collected and analyzed by international legal experts,

and in their opinion there is enough evidence already to support

a public indictment by the tribunal, but there is also reason

to believe that Governments concerned with the Balkan conflicts

have still more information that, despite their obligation to support

the International Criminal Tribunal, they have not yet made available

to that tribunal.

I believe the United States should carefully review all of the information

we have and turn over absolutely every bit of that evidence

which they now possess and seek his indictment as a killer.

We must provide all that information. We should not compromise

intelligence sources, obviously, but we can and do have credible evidence

that will establish that he has been part and parcel of the

genocide that is taking place right now.

Action by the tribunal would signal to all participants in the conflict

that no one is above the law, not even Milosevic.

Mr. Chairman, we have to stand up and do what is right. Once

Milosevic is publicly indicted, the States that have blocked or

slowed necessary action to solve the Kosovo conflict could not stand

by him. Just as Karadzic and Mladic are now out of power and in

hiding, living on borrowed time, Milosevic himself could not maintain

his position of political power for very long.

There is evidence that the democratic opposition in Serbia that

has so effectively been divided and suppressed is once again rising.

An indictment, especially one quickly followed by the tribunal socalled

superindictment process, at which prosecutors publicly

present the evidence supporting the indictment to the tribunal,

would undermine whatever international legitimacy he still has.

The time has come for the Senate of the United States to encourage

this Nation to take the lead in this effort. Milosevic should be

publicly branded the war criminal we know he is, and now this

vital step would help save lives. It would help stop the further ethnic

cleansing and would strike a blow for democracy. It is, I believe,

the best way for us to proceed, and I believe we have an obligation

to come together and to call the situation as it is.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to your leadership and that of

the committee in helping us obtain a peaceful resolution, and I believe

this is one of the ways in which we can do that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.