

latest round of violence in the Balkans does not spread to Albania, Macedonia, Greece and perhaps Turkey. We should take proactive steps by learning from recent history. We must encourage a meaningful dialogue between Serbs and Kosovar Albanian leaders that leads to peaceful solutions and protects basic human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department has said that it supports "an enhanced status for Kosovo within the context of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [Serbia/Montenegro]." Our position is clearly a step in the right direction. It is responsible; it demonstrates our commitment to a peaceful resolution to the conflict; and it underpins our commitment to basic human rights.

One of the deplorable legacies of the Bosnian war is that human rights will be violated if the international community sits back and allows for abuses to happen. We go on record today stating that we will not tolerate abuses and violence. It is wrong, and it is absurd.

The 1995 Dayton Peace Accords clearly demonstrate that peace won't happen without considerable U.S. leadership. In fact, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook recently met with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on the issue of greater autonomy for ethnic Albanians, and his comments are instructive: "I did not feel encouraged to believe that there is yet a recognition in Belgrade that there will have to be significant further steps of increased autonomy to Kosovo if we are to find an acceptable political solution (*Washington Post*, March 6, 1998)."

To this end, the political leadership of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo has sought greater independence and freedom from Serb authorities since the early 1990s, but Serbia has flatly rejected the idea. Serbs see Albania as their cultural homeland. It is fitting that we respect and appreciate the Serbs' history but, at the same time, we must take steps to facilitate greater self-governance for ethnic Albanians. They comprise at least 90% of Kosovo's 2 million people. For me the message is clear: the U.S. must support fundamental human rights in the Serbian province of Kosovo. The ethnic Albanians deserve an enhanced political status and a heightened degree of autonomy. Again, autonomy, in a word, could be an antidote for further violence and bloodshed in the region.

Mr. Speaker, writing in Sunday's *Washington Post*, columnist Jim Hoagland helps policy makers return to key principles in this malaise we call the post-Cold War world. He reminds us of the value of human dignity and our fight for human rights. Hoagland reminds us that the "demographic laws of gravity" cannot be defied:

Washington should cease paying tribute to territorial integrity maintained by brute force, whether that force is exercised in Serbia, Iraq, Indonesia or China. The United States should stop opposing in word and deed the aspirations of Kosovars, Kurds, Timorese or Tibetans willing to fight oppression visited on them by other dominant ethnic groups that have a monopoly on firepower and organized violence. . . . Big government in the form of nation-state superstructures like the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, and big racial ideology in the form of pan-Slavism and pan-Arabism, have been tossed on history's ash heap in this decade. It is a time when the center does not hold, especially in places like the Balkans, "when atomization is the dominant force in international politics."

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 235 that calls for an end to violent repression in Kosovo. Most of all, I ask my colleagues to take a stand for basic human rights and the inviolability of human dignity.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to condemn the violent repression of the people of Kosova, and I comment my colleagues—Mr. GILMAN and Mr. ENGEL—for their leadership on this issue.

Over the past several weeks we have all seen the horrible images and listened to the cries of grief and outrage.

Those who were executed by the Serbian forces in front of their families last week have now been properly buried.

We mourn them, and extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones who survive them.

It is hard to fathom the cruelty of men who would randomly shoot people, proudly display their lifeless bodies like trophies, then bury them in a ditch.

But that is what we have seen.

It is hard to comprehend how such terrible hatred can so overwhelm a person, that it empties them of all compassion and humanity.

But that is what we have seen.

And it is also hard to understand how a people so brutalized can hang on to hope and keep going. But the ethnic Albanians of Kosova will prevail.

For nine years, Serbia has repressed and harassed them. Now this campaign of terror has degenerated into open slaughter, and many innocent people have died.

Today we join together to say: "No More."

This violence cannot continue, and we must do whatever it takes to stop the bloodshed.

Serbian aggression in Bosnia has taught all of us a hard lesson: that the United States and its allies cannot simply remain on the sidelines.

We brought peace to Bosnia only after we showed Slobodan Milosevic (pronounced Slow-buh-dahn Mill-oh-so-vitch) that his brute force would be countered with swift and decisive military action.

Now Milosevic must accept that he faces the same consequences if he does not halt his campaign of terror in Kosova.

Milosevic must also recognize the legitimate will of the people of Kosova for a free and independent state.

It's been said that you can bury the dead, but you can never bury a dream. Their dream of freedom is stronger than ever, and we stand with them today.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I wish I could say that Serbia's repression of Kosova comes as a surprise but I think we saw it coming by Slobodan Milosevic's aggression in the region.

If dialogue is to happen between the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians, then we must stop sending mixed messages and signals. Let me say that I think that we were too quick to reward Belgrade for its positive steps in Bosnia peace process without taking into consideration what was going on in Kosova.

One of the greatest fears is a spill over into Macedonia which would be terrible for many reasons [Greece and

Turkey] not just geo-strategic ones. I wish I had been here to ask Robert Gelbard about what seems to be the approval of the 700 man extension of the UN peacekeeping force in Macedonia—UNPREDEP (Unpred)—which was due to withdraw this summer.

I know that the election scheduled for March 22 was cancelled especially after the slaughter of 84 people. I understand that Robert Gelbard, in a private meeting with Milosevic, asked just for the families to see the victims bodies before they were buried. Even while Gelbard was boarding the plane, Serbia proceeded with the burial against the wishes of those that were mourning. In addition, let me say that when one side is really serious about talks they at least inform the other side of an agenda, time and place of the meetings.

Ethnic cleansing and massacrers cannot be tolerated whether in Rwanda, Bosnia or another Serbian enclave—Kosova. In response to the recent attacks, I along with other members of the Albanian caucus, have sent a letter to the President to address the deteriorating situation in Kosova. In conclusion, Kosova reminds me of the Tiananmen Square incident. Years later, we are still going on with "business as usual." I hope Pristina [Prissstina] won't fall victim to this type of policy.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 235, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule 1, the Chair will now put the question on