Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman with a gentle heart from

Colorado for yielding and giving me

the honor of coming alongside and joining him in his effort to bring a forgotten part of the world before the American people.

Without flattering the gentleman, it

would be important to state for the record that his efforts and the efforts

of our colleague and friend Senator SAM BROWNBACK

have almost singularly awakened the conscience of the

people of the United States of America

about the plight and the humanitarian

crisis and the moral bankruptcy of the government of Sudan.

A few points before I yield back to my better in this. Those that are with

us, Mr. Speaker, should understand

there is simply a humanitarian crisis

in Sudan that requires a response by

the United States. There is a government of Sudan that simply cannot in

demonstrable ways be trusted in these

efforts and should not be coddled even

in the name of advancing our interest in the war on terrorism.

On the humanitarian crisis, as the

gentleman from Colorado said, Mr. Speaker, 2 million Sudanese people

have died of war-related injuries in recent years, including disease and starvation. We Americans still grieve the

mindless loss of some 6,000 lives on

September 11, yet 2 million people have

been lost both to the violence of war

and the devastation of its aftermath,

with another 4 million Sudanese being displaced.

The government of Sudan uses a divide-and-destroy strategy to pit southern ethnic groups one against another.

They actually have attacked civilian

food production and supplies using

starvation as a weapon of destruction

in their war. And the government of

Sudan conducts regular slave raids on

villages in the south, preying most especially on the Christian population in south Sudan.

It is also well documented that the

government of Sudan uses oil revenues

to support its oppression of the southern Sudanese, this according to the

Committee on Conscience at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In an alarming scenario, Sudanese

government helicopter gunships recently bombed a world food program

site in the western Upper Nile, killing

17 civilians. A government that bombs

food production facilities is a morally

bankrupt government with which the United States cannot deal.

And if we needed more evidence, Mr. Speaker, a mid-level al Qaeda official was recently captured in Sudan and, of

course, Osama bin Laden has in recent

years taken refuge there. A clear connection exists between Sudan and extremist elements in our war on terrorism.

The commander of Sudan’s popular defense force called on the Sudanese

people to join a holy war with the Palestinian people and rid Jerusalem of

its, in his words, Zionist filth. These

are the words of the commander of Sudan’s defense forces. The president of

Sudan has called for training camps to be set up for this purpose as well. And

following this announcement, hundreds

of thousands of Sudanese marched in

the streets of Khartoum chanting anti-Israel, anti-U.S. slogans and singing

the praises of Osama bin Laden. After a cease-fire was agreed upon,

the government of Sudan still denied

humanitarian access to 43 locations in

southern Sudan. Prior to this, the government of Sudan banned flights to, on

average, 25 locations. In other words,

they have announced they will continue bombing but just prevent international observation by kicking out all NGOs.

While he has asked me not to mention his name, Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to serve a district where a church

in a small rural town of my heartland

Indiana district raised the funds and

sent a mission group to Sudan to do

nothing more than deliver an ultralight aircraft so the Christians in

southern Sudan would be able to sur-veil approaching armaments preparing

to bombard cities, as they do with longer-range weapons.

The Bible tells us, on this national

day of prayer, Mr. Speaker, that

‘‘From everyone who has been given

much, much will be demanded. From the one who has been entrusted with

much, much more will be asked.’’

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) has responded to that call

from his heart in leading the way in

this institution for the development

and the passage in this Congress of the Sudan Peace Act.

I have been privileged to join the

gentleman from Colorado in drafting a

letter urging action on the Sudan

Peace Act and would urge all of my

colleagues to join us and many other

prominent Members of this institution

who have already added their names to

this correspondence, including the majority leader, the conference chairman,

and the distinguished chairman of the

Committee on International Relations,

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Let me say the United States, Mr. Speaker, has been blessed with an

abundance of material goods, author-

ity, and moral conscience. We can no

longer tolerate the government-funded

and subsidized massacre of human life,

nor can we, as a Nation that is pluralistic in its faith but dominated by both

a heritage and a contemporary Christian population, neither can we as a

government of so great a people, turn a

blind eye and a deaf ear to the suffering of the magnitude in Sudan that,

again I hasten to add, is not a humanitarian crisis, Mr. Speaker, that is

borne of environmental collapse or of

drought, but it is a humanitarian crisis

that is the result of the oppression and

the murder of hundreds of thousands

and millions of innocent civilians by the government of Sudan.

It is almost difficult to speak those

words and imagine a place that would

be so correctly described as a hell on

earth. Yet there are people there whose

faith puts mine to shame. There are people there every day tending to the

sick and caring for the homeless. So let

us simply today urge our colleagues to

join us in this effort to call for action.

Again, I am very humbled to be able

to stand with the gentleman from Colorado in this cause and simply cannot

help but feel, as we have said one to another, that of all the things that we debate on this blue and gold carpet, of all

the things that we will have the privilege of being a part of in the year or

years that we each of us have left in

this place, perhaps there will be nothing of greater significance in eternity

than what we do for the least of these in the world.

The way we can in our own modest

way in this institution steer the policy

of the United States of America to a

bright and moral compass that believes

in human dignity and believes in

human freedom and actually sets international policy in a way that expresses

that belief, which I maintain is in the heart of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman

from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for

yielding and for calling this Special Order, and look forward to laboring

with the gentleman as he continues his

important work pressing for the passage of the Sudan Peace Act, and

bringing the plight of these extraordinary people of the Sudan to the attention of this body.