Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and concur in the Senate amendment

to the bill (H.R. 3127) to impose sanctions

against individuals responsible

for genocide, war crimes, and crimes

again humanity, to support measures

for the protection of civilians and humanitarian

operations, and to support

peace efforts in the Darfur region of

Sudan, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative

days to revise and extend their remarks

on the bill under consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

For as long as I can remember, we

have received conflicting messages

about the situation in Sudan. My staff

and I, like many people in this body,

have met with Sudanese government

officials. We have met with African

Union officials and Darfur rebel leaders

in Khartoum, Darfur, Addis Ababa,

Abuja, and in Washington; and we have

gotten varying accounts and assurances

between the northern and southern

officials in the Sudan government,

between the African Union military

and political departments, and between

the SLM factions and the JEM.

Unfortunately, the past few months

have brought more of the same. On

May 5, 2006, we welcomed the news that

the government of Sudan had signed a

peace agreement with the largest rebel

group in Darfur, the Minni Minnawi-led

faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement

Army. Modeled after the peace

agreement which ostensibly ended over

20 years of war in southern Sudan, the

Darfur Peace Agreement was hailed as

a breakthrough in the peace process

that had seen little progress in 2 years.

Our hopes for peace in Darfur were

further raised on August 30 as the

United Nations Security Council finally

approved Resolution 1706, authorizing

the transition of the well-meaning

but severely constrained African

Union Mission in Sudan, AMIS, to a

larger, more capable U.N. peacekeeping

mission with a robust mandate providing

for civilian protection.

Before the microphones were silenced

and the ink had dried, however, it became

clear that eloquent speeches and

agreements on paper would do little, if

anything, to protect human life in Darfur.

Given its conduct of the war in the

south, it should have been come as no

surprise to learn that the government

of Sudan had launched a new major

military offensive in north Darfur in

late August, in direct violation of the

peace agreement it had signed just 3 months earlier.

Rather than serving as a harbinger of

peace, it appears that the Darfur Peace

Agreement has emboldened the Sudanese

government, the Janjaweed militias,

and rebel groups in Darfur to act

with even greater impunity in killing,

abusing and displacing civilians as

they seek to consolidate their positions

before international peacekeepers are deployed.

And despite assurances that a U.N.

peacekeeping mission would be accepted

upon conclusion of a peace agreement,

Security Council Resolution 1706

was greeted by the Sudanese government

with unmitigated hostility.

Regardless of the fact that a U.N.

peacekeeping mission already exists in

southern Sudan, the Sudanese government

now seeks to portray the proposed

expansion to Darfur as a ‘‘western

invasion’’ and has called upon

jihadists to attack any U.N. peacekeepers

who dare to deploy in Darfur.

While it is not require under U.N. Security

Council Resolution 1706, the Sudanese

government’s intransigence and

inflammatory remarks have all but

guaranteed that the long-awaited transition

of AMIS will not take place before

the end of this year.

It is these sharp contrasts between

word and deed in Sudan which underlie

the importance of today’s consideration

of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and

Accountability Act.

H.R. 3127, which was authored by

Chairman HYDE and cosponsored by

Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PAYNE and me and 160

other Members, passed the House in

April and was amended by the Senate

just last week. It offers the President

the tools he needs both to support the

immediate expansion of AMIS and to

facilitate its transition to a U.N.

peacekeeping mission as soon as possible.

It also provides the President

with the authority to provide emergency

economic and development assistance

to marginalized areas in

Sudan, including southern Sudan and Darfur.

H.R. 3127 also carries punitive measures

intended to promote accountability

in Sudan and act as a deterrent

against further atrocities. It imposes

targeted sanctions against individuals

determined to be complicit in or responsible

for acts of genocide, war

crimes or crimes against humanity in

Darfur. It calls upon the President to

take all necessary actions to deny the

government of Sudan access to oil revenues,

which have been used to fund its

genocidal campaign in Darfur. H.R.

3127 also calls for the suspension of the

government of Sudan’s rights and

privileges at the U.N. until it has honored

its commitments before that body.

The Senate amendment updates the

bill to reflect events that have taken

place following House passage last

April and expresses the conviction of

this Congress that AMIS must be

transitioned to a larger, more capable

U.N. mission. It also allows the President

to provide limited military assistance

to the government of southern

Sudan, thereby fulfilling commitments

to facilitate the transformation of the

Sudan People’s Liberation Army from

a rebel group to a professional military force.

I note with considerable regret that

the Senate amendment also strikes an

important provision to make clear that

nothing in this bill shall preempt State

laws on divestment.

I am very proud of the fact that New

Jersey has divested its pension fund investments

from companies that do

business with Khartoum. I would note

that some States like Illinois are in

court, in litigation, because they have

done likewise. This provision would

have made clear that nothing in the

bill would preempt State laws on disinvestment.

That is a loss, but there

are many other things in this bill that

I think warrant its passage.

Mr. Speaker, in their addresses to the

U.N. Assembly last week, both President

Bush and Secretary General Kofi

Annan recognized the transcendent importance

of a show of resolve on

Darfur. While it is true that the bill before

us as amended by the Senate requires

Members to make difficult compromises,

it is nevertheless a solid bill.

It is a serious bill. It is an urgent bill.

Far too much time has lapsed. Far too

many graves have been filled since we

first began debating this resolution.

The time to show Congress’s resolve is now.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to just at this point

thank the following congressional staff

for their extraordinary work and persistence

in shaping this bill. As my colleague

from Minnesota pointed out earlier,

we did mark this bill up 15 months

ago in my subcommittee, and it has

been a long, arduous journey to this

night on this Hyde-Lantos legislation.

So I want to thank Joan Collins, Gregory

Simpkins, Pearl Alice Marsh,

Noelle LuSane, Ian Campbell, Hannah

Royal, Aysha House-Moshi, Greg

Adams, Samantha Stockman, Walker

Roberts, Jock Scharfen, David

Abramowitz, Will Lowell.

And I hope I didn’t leave anybody out

because there was an extraordinary

amount of give and take on this legislation.

Again, some of its aspects that

we would have liked to have seen dealing

with disinvestment was dropped by

the Senate. I think that was a setback.

But it is still a very solid piece of legislation

and deserves the full support of

this body to advance our efforts to

mitigate and hopefully end the genocide in Darfur.

This now goes to the President, as I

have just been reminded, and I think

he will sign it very quickly. I urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.