Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill,

and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the

gentleman from Illinois, Chairman

HYDE, and our ranking subcommittee

member, Mr. PAYNE, for the extraordinary

hard work that went into writing

this potentially life-saving legislation,

the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, has a simple

goal: to increase steadily the pressure

on the politicians in Khartoum so they

finally will end the genocide there.

Congress has acted before to pressure

the Sudanese government, and perhaps

we will have to do so again in the future.

But we must continue to press

until the genocide is ended, the displaced

can return to their home, and

justice will have been served.

This important and comprehensive

piece of legislation does many things.

It imposes sanctions on political and

military leaders in Sudan who are responsible

for the Darfur genocide. It

authorizes the President to provide additional

assistance to the currently

over-matched African Union military

mission. It prohibits assistance to

countries in violation of the United Nations

Security Council resolutions

which impose sanctions on Sudan. It

maintains existing United States sanctions

on the government of Sudan to

keep on the pressure.

And it makes special provisions to

aid the Government of southern Sudan

by exempting it from sanctions.

Madam Speaker, the measures in this

bill are ‘‘smart sanctions’’ on individuals.

They target specific measures

against political and military leaders

who have directed the scorched Earth

policy against men, women, and children in Darfur.

Consider the scope of this tragedy:

over 200,000 have died. More than 2 million

innocent civilians have been displaced

from their homes. Rape is a

weapon of choice against women and

girls. And even those who find shelter

in refugee camps beyond the country’s

borders are not safe from attack.

The perpetrators of genocide in

Darfur have lied about their actions.

They defied international rebuke. And

they attempted to hide their

duplicitous nature by participating in

peace negotiations while keeping up

the aggression against the people of Darfur.

Madam Speaker, the murderers in

Khartoum do not respond to the fine

points of diplomacy without blunt

pressure that hampers their ability to

do business as usual. Khartoum responds

only to hardball tactics and

then only reluctantly.

Madam Speaker, genocide is not perpetrated

by anonymous unidentifiable

individuals and groups. Genocide is

conceived, planned, and carried out by

malicious immoral people with names

and faces. Our legislation focuses specifically

on those individuals who have

been identified by the President as

complicit in or responsible for acts of

genocide, war crimes, or crimes against

humanity in Darfur. The list of individuals

includes their family members and

people to whom assets have been transferred

since the genocide began.

Madam Speaker, we know who these

perpetrators of evil are, and I am

pleased beyond words that the House

and the Senate are prepared to act

against them. But our bill goes beyond

sanctions against the evil-doers in

Khartoum. It also ensures that sanctions

on Sudanese Government officials

remain in place until they have

stopped the genocide and implanted the

Darfur Peace Agreement, disarmed the

murderous Arab militia, adhered to all

U.N. Security Council resolutions, and

negotiated a peaceful settlement to the

crisis in eastern Sudan.

Madam Speaker, the legislation before

us today does not contain divestment

provisions of the type that were

so instrumental in bringing down the

Apartheid government in South Africa.

I strongly support such provisions, and

the other body’s refusal to include

them in the comprehensive bill represents

a missed opportunity. But this

bill remains a very strong piece of legislation

that will undoubtedly increase

pressure on the Government of Sudan

to end the genocide.

With its passage, Congress is signaling

that we will not be passive observers

to mass murder. We will act

and act decisively.

I urge all of my colleagues to support

this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to

yield 2 minutes to a distinguished

member of the International Relations

Committee, my good friend from Minnesota,

a strong voice for human

rights, Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM.

Madam Speaker, I am

pleased to yield 3 minutes to my friend

from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA

JACKSON-LEE.

Madam Speaker, I have

no further requests for time, and I

yield back the balance of my time.