Mr.

Speaker, the world is in total crisis.

The conflict and the devastation in the

Darfur region of Sudan is abominable. I

call on the President of the United

States, who named Andrew Natsios at

the U.N. to be the Special Envoy, that

we put the full might and credibility of

what we have left in our country behind

the genocide that is taking place

in Darfur.

You have heard the numbers. Atrocities,

government-sponsored terrorism,

where the President of Sudan does not

even acknowledge not only the U.N.

forces, not only the African coalition

that is there to help secure his people,

but that genocide and the killings really

exist.

I was on one of the delegations that

went to Sudan earlier this year in a bipartisan,

bicameral visit. It was outrageous

what we saw. Yet, today, as

the heightened conflict, killings, this

government in Khartoum is now dropping

bombs on the civilian population

in the refugee camps. Just think about

it. They have run them out of their villages.

They have burned their villages.

They have raped the women. They

killed the men and had the children in

total chaos and asking for help.

We are the most powerful Nation in

the world today. We say that all the

time. We must rise up to save the

young children, the women, and the

men for the sake of their own country.

President al-Bashir has turned his

head on it. The Janjaweed, men on

horses who ride herd on those villages,

kill people, innocent civilians, it could

be you, but you are living in another

country.

I am asking tonight that we recognize

the genocide, the horrific conditions

that are going on in Darfur,

which is in the southwest region of

Sudan. Sudan is the largest country

geographically in Africa. It has black

Africans, African Arabs and others in

the country.

Khartoum in the northern part of the

country is where the seat of government

is. They just recently signed a

southwest agreement in Darfur that

they might be better, and better take

care of their people, which they are not

doing.

The security is deteriorating. There

is a credible threat of famine that exists.

More and more people are going

hungry and starving, and the world relief

food efforts are not able to get to

the people who have been run off of

their land.

The cease-fire is in shambles. The

U.N. peacekeeping authority must keep

in, and President al-Bashir is not letting

them in.

Rise up. We need the Nations that

surround the Sudan to speak up.

Egypt President Mubarak, I have

been a strong supporter of Egypt, and I

still will be, but you must speak up.

You must do more. You and I have

talked about this. You must do more.

Jordan, King Abdullah, you have got

to get involved. You have got to get involved.

People are dying as we speak.

The region must rise up. How can you

let this happen one more time in any

part of the world? These are people who

cultivate and live and grow food before

this atrocity which now has outlasted

any other, including Rwanda, in terms

of its devastation and loss of life.

The Chad-Sudan border that I visited

on another occasion is overwhelmed by

the people who are fleeing Sudan. Do

we want to keep the chaos going? Do

we not really have to sign up as God’s

people, one Nation under God and treat

all of His people the same?

We have the authority, we have the

power, and we have the partnerships to

bring this to a conclusion. So I join my

CBC colleagues this evening and ask

that America rise up, that the Middle

East region speak out to help people

who cannot help themselves.

I want to thank Congressman DONALD

PAYNE who is the author of a resolution

that we sponsored and passed,

H.R. 3127. We passed it in April. We

sent it to the Senate, where they sat on

it. Now, I understand a Senator does

not want to pass it because it was too

strong. How can a resolution be strong,

too strong when it is about the very

subsistence of life for a people?

So I call on all good men and women

of the world, Darfur needs us to step

up, the people, the children, the

women, the men, the villages. We can

do better.

I ask that we stand and fight and

speak and work, that the people in

Darfur can have life and have it more

abundantly.

Mr. Speaker, today the African Union

agreed to extend its mandate of peacekeeping

forces in Darfur through the end of the year

ensuring that international troops will remain in

the Sudanese province for now. I rise today to

support H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act. Current circumstances dictate

that we develop tangible solutions, in order to

provide hope to the people of Darfur.

Darfurians are suffering extreme hardships.

Every day is a struggle to survive for the Internally

Displaced Persons, IDPs, in camps in

Chad.

The Sudanese conflict in Darfur is the longest

running civil war in Africa, and there are

no clear signs of a negotiated resolution.

President Bashir has said time and time again

that he will not approve U.N. forces to come

in to his country.

There are at least 2.61 million people affected

by the conflict. Children no longer attend

school, women face the prospects of

rape, violence and death each day as they

exist in refugee camps and venture outside

the confines of camp for water and firewood.

70,000 people have already lost their lives.

The number of displaced persons continues to

expand and is estimated now at 1.9 million

people.

When I say the situation is worsening, the

facts reinforce the reality. Even as I stand before

you, the Sudanese government is engaged

in aerial bombings directed at the refugees.

The Janjaweed are directing increasing

bold and violent attacks, massacres of refugees.

The African Union has affirmed its intention

to fulfill its mandate, but it is imperative

that the transition to a United Nations force be

made consistent with Security Council Resolution

1706.

The world is watching as genocide engulfs

victims in an African country. It appears that

we did not learn the lessons that resulted from

the genocide efforts that occurred in Rwanda.

We vowed never to forget; yet, we are not

doing enough to ensure the safety and security

of innocent victims in Darfur.

It is critical to place the matter of Darfur in

context. The porous border between Sudan

and Chad is expected to see a massive influx

of about 20,000 refugees at the expiration of

the AU mandate. A number of estimates suggest

that this number will be closer to 50,000

people. The World Food Program has stated

unequivocally that they are incapable of providing

food and assistance whenever the current

crisis deteriorates. The fact of the matter

is the current conflict presents a moral imperative

for the world and for people of conscience.

If nothing is done, there will be negative

impact in neighboring countries. Many of

the neighboring countries will be overextended

as their limited resources are stretched to

cope with the needs of the refugees.

It cannot be overemphasized that more

leadership must occur in order to end the

crimes against humanity occurring in Darfur. It

is clear that the government of Khartoum

thinks that the world, the U.N. and African and

Muslim countries lack the moral resolve to

tackle this issue. The countries of Egypt and

Nigeria must exert their considerable influence

to tackle this ever-widening problem. God and

history will judge all of us harshly if we do not

rescue the current victims of Janjaweed atrocities.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared

that genocide was occurring in Darfur,

Sudan. Even with a declaration of genocide,

the suffering continues.

We in the Congress have told the people of

Darfur that help is on the way. The FY 07 request

includes $108 million for refugee assistance,

$60 million for conflict management in

Sudan, $170 million for Peacekeeping Operations,

PKO, which is $30 million less than the

request, and approximately $70 million for

Contributions to International Peacekeeping,

CIPA. But these resources are far from

enough.

What is required is a moral imperative and

clear, decisive mandates emanating from the

UN that provide blue helmet soldiers on the

ground with the authority to uphold peace.

I have traveled to Darfur, and I am pained

to say that the genocide occurring in Darfur is

tantamount to ethnic cleansing by Arab Muslims

against indigenous African Muslims.

There is no escaping this reality.

In closing, it is crucial that the following

occur. We must support the Special Envoy for

Sudan, Andrew Natsios, former USAID Administrator

appointed by President Bush. Nonetheless,

there is still a strong need for passage

of the Special Envoy Resolution, H. Res.

992. This resolution not only calls for the appointment

of a Special Envoy but also for that

individual to have a strong mandate, staff and

backing of senior administration officials. Passage

of this bill will show Congressional support

for the Envoy. All 4 Co-chairs of the

Sudan Caucus are co-sponsors.

Finally, the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act, H.R. 3127, passed the House last spring.

Another version of this bill, S. 1462, also

passed the Senate. House and Senate staff

met in April to agree on a compromise. The

Senate had agreed to take up H.R. 3127. For

months the bill languished. Last Monday, Senator

LUGAR introduced a new version of H.R.

3127. Procedurally and time-wise this presents

several problems. It is crucial that Congress

pass a bill that will address the plight of the

victims of Sudan before we adjourn, and that,

in turn, the president sign the legislation.

We must send a clear and strong message

to our suffering brothers and sisters in Darfur

to hold strong.