Mr.

Speaker, I think this is one of the more

important Special Orders that we have

had an opportunity to participate in,

and it is because of the gentleman’s vision

we have been called to the floor to

really stop, if you will, the ethnic

cleansing and the horrific results of

what appears to be, again, a tragedy in

the works of an enormous magnitude.

Let me add my appreciation that has

been rendered by the gentleman from

Maryland (Chairman CUMMINGS) to

thank the gentleman for really having

the focus on the continent of Africa,

along with many, many other issues

dealing with the need for humanitarian

relief and focus.

I think it is important to note, for

this body to be aware, of the pivotal

road the gentleman played relating to

Eritrea and Ethiopia, we had an opportunity

to discuss that just a few days

ago, and as well for this body to know

of the very vital role that the gentleman

plays with the United Nations.

I have heard extensive discussions on

this floor about the United Nations,

some of it worthy of repeating, much of

it not; and I think what the gentleman

has been able to do for this Congress is

to be a bridge to the United Nations.

We spent, as the gentleman can recall,

Friday at the United Nations, and

I think if I could deviate for a moment,

because I want to encourage the United

Nations, as the gentleman did, to get

involved in Sudan. I believe it is imperative.

As I recall, one of the ranking members

of the United Nations hierarchy

was being dispatched as we spoke to

the Sudan to try to engage, because, as

the gentleman knows, it was noted

they were not there as maybe they

should be. The gentleman was there to

press the point that they should be

there.

But I also know we discussed the Oil

for Food program, and I just think for

a moment it is important to note that

the United Nations is likewise ashamed

or concerned about what that program

turned into. I think this body needs to

be aware that they are doing their own

investigation, and the gentleman is

pressing them to get to the truth of

this program. But I would hope that we

would not discard the United Nations

for an effort that other nations supported,

and that maybe we should just

reconsider the value of sanctions, as

they have asked us to work with them

on, that they be pointed toward the

government, and not so much toward

the people.

But the reason why the gentleman

has brought us here today, and the reason

why I thank the gentleman from

Maryland (Chairman CUMMINGS), and

as well as the gentleman noted the

fact, that he has not only been given to

great leadership, but he has focused the

caucus on international issues. We just

cannot live in this country without

being focused on international issues.

So I want to remind our colleagues

why the gentleman’s message is so important

today, because I will say to the

gentleman that I believe I will always,

always be reminded of Rwanda. I will

never, never forget Rwanda. I think

this Nation and this world will never

live Rwanda down.

We are grateful for some of the

progress that the state of Rwanda is

now making. But seeing some of the

victims, survivors of that purge, ethnic

cleansing, that conflict that seemed to

be submerged, and then as our eyes

began to open, and I will not say, I am

not castigating, I know there were

many pressing the point, and we know

the Congressional Black Caucus went

on record and literally asked this Nation

to take a stand. And I would imagine

that those in power at the time will

even tell you they are remorseful of

what happened and that they did not

act soon. Because 1 million-plus, and I

would almost say we do not have the

final count, we do not know how many

died. We know it is claimed to have

been 1 million, and we realize that it is

still a fragile situation. But the world

did not act, and 1 million people were

killed.

But I think as the gentleman has described

and as the chairman has described,

one really needs to know what

bludgeoning and mutilation and raping,

pillaging villages and scattering

innocent children, and hunger, devastation,

is all about, and disease taking

hold. Or people coming into villages

and seeing piles and piles of bodies that

have to ultimately be burned because

you cannot bury them. That is what

Rwanda was all about.

The gentleman knows that we did

not stop a moment when they came to

us on the Kosovo situation, the ethnic

cleansing. We rallied everyone. And

many of us went to Albania and Kosovo

and saw the refugee camps. But we

acted; NATO acted. But we did not act

in Rwanda.

I know that we could have the same

occurrence in Sudan. It only takes a

blink of an eye. We could have this situation

implode on us. I know it is happening

in the gentleman’s community.

I know many in the Christian faith

have been talking about Sudan and

have been talking being about this

from a Christian-Muslim perspective,

and the Christians are being the ones

attacked. We have now gotten to the

point where it is dividing the country

by way of North-South, or black Africa

versus the Muslims and Arabs.

I know my good friends in the Arab

community, in fact I have spoken to

President Bouteflika, and I know the

gentleman indicated he worked hard on

other issues with him, Ethiopia, Eritrea.

But he considers himself part of

Africa, and Algeria is part of Africa;

and he wants this cohesiveness with

the continent. He does not want Arabs

and black Africans or sub-Saharan Africa

and Northern Africa. He wants the

new Africa.

What we must say to the Sudanese

leaders in government now, and what I

have heard the gentleman say, how

they can distinguish themselves, it is

not the government, it is somebody

else.

Well, my friends, as we have come to

understand in Iraq, it is not somebody

else; it is the government of the United

States that has to be responsible for

the abuse of prisoners in Iraq. It is the

government of the United States that

has to be responsible for the status of

Iraq right now. And it is the government

in Sudan that has to take responsibility.

I will join the gentleman, whether it

is quietly or whether it is pronounced,

to encourage our brothers and sisters

who are leaders in Africa to be able to

embrace the tragedy that is occurring,

and that is the fact, as has been noted,

15,000 or more may be on the border at

Chad now, and there may be more coming.

Disease is rampant. There are not

enough doctors to be able to take care

of the diseased persons. Babies are

dying for lack of nutrition and water.

We have villages that are burning as

we speak. I imagine people are being

killed along the way and cannot be

buried.

That creates disease. Farmers are

losing their equipment, whether it is a

hoe or an animal that is starving, so

they cannot produce food; and they

cannot eat food because the animals

they eat are being killed.

I cannot imagine that we could sit by

again to have someone tell us next

week or in June or in the fall or next

year that more than 1 million were

killed in this battle.

To be honest, I am going to be like

most Americans. I do not know what

they are fighting about. I find it despicable.

But I do know that they are

living in a land area that all of them,

both Arabs and black Africans, have a

stake in. They are stakeholders. They

all have claimed the Sudan as their

area, and it is now a state.

So it seems to me they would find a

way, that the government finds a way,

to create the safety for all of the people,

no matter whether they desire to

be called an Arab or whether they desire

to be called Sudanese or a black

African.

I would simply ask that this not be

forgotten. I spoke today earlier about

our plight in Iraq; and, of course, we

know that the important thing to do is

to heal this and fix it, and this Congress

has to fix it.

I believe they should fix it through

the gentleman’s committee, the Committee

on International Relations,

through the Committee on the Judiciary,

through the Permanent Select

Committee on Intelligence. I believe no

investigation is too many investigations,

because it is not fixed.

As we have to fix that problem and

investigate those charges and not diminish

nudity and abuse as ‘‘it is not

that bad’’ and discount the rapes that

are going on in Iraq of military women,

discount the sexual abuse that was

showing and glaring in that video and

those pictures, we cannot allow the

world, nor can America disown what is

happening in Sudan.

I would like to join the gentleman in

his plea to the leaders of this continent,

and I would like to applaud the

gentleman for bringing this to the attention

of Secretary of State Powell,

just as we brought to his attention the

plight of Haitians. The one thing that

the Congressional Black Caucus has

been unified on at all occasions is the

humanitarian aid and relief to people

who are dying and starving.

So our Members should be reminded

by this Special Order and the gentleman’s

leadership, and we join in that

leadership to include Haiti and humanitarian

aid that is needed, and to stop

the killing that is going on there and,

if you will, the disenfranchising of the

Lavalas Party and whatever the confusion

is, where one is in and one is out.

We are looking for democracy, where

all are in and all have a chance to participate

and elect a duly elected government.

What we want in the Sudan, first of

all, is to stop the killing, to allow people

to stay within the borders of their

nation, to be able to have the villagers

go back to their villages, and have the

government of Sudan take responsibility

to save their lives.

I thank the gentleman for allowing

me to join him. I was so distraught on

what is happening in Sudan and with

the backdrop of what I will never forget,

Rwanda, that I believe we are compelled,

we are actually compelled to

act. The gentleman is a leader in that.

Would the gentleman mind me taking

a moment of personal privilege not

directly on this topic, and to thank

him for his leadership on the Committee

on Education and the Workforce

as we moved the Brown v. Board of

Education resolution along with yourself,

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr.

CONYERS), and the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Maybe it sounds disconnected, but

Brown has been described as many

things. I guess it is symbolic that separate

and equal cannot stand. It is separate

and unequal. But I think its key

element is that of activism and being

active.

Though it was a domestic issue of

acting to provide quality in education,

the message we are giving tonight is

that we must act; it is imperative that

we act. I join the gentleman in acting,

and I thank him for his leadership.

Mr.

Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for

a moment again, I mentioned, and I

know that the gentleman has heard

from them, because I believe they have

been engaged in this over the years,

the Christian community. They have

done missionary work, they have been

promoting Christianity in Sudan, and

that certainly has rocked some of the

order, but they have every right to be

there, and they are Republicans and

Democrats.

This is,

I think what the gentleman is saying,

a bipartisan issue. This is an issue that

draws on the very heartstrings of this

Congress. I believe the gentleman has a

resolution, if I am not mistaken, that

would call on this Congress to go on

record. I enthusiastically support it.

But it should be moved to the front of

the line, and to be assured, if my memory

serves me. I am not sure if we have

already passed it, but I think not.

So I am

making the statement today that we

need to move this to the front of the

line, because I am told as we visit with

heads of State on these issues, when

that vote comes through, we can be assured

that through electronic media,

electronic dissemination, it is known,

and it gives a resounding sound that we

are paying attention to that issue. And

I cannot imagine, just as the Brown v.

Board of Education resolution was offered

today, in looking to Monday, the

50th anniversary, because of the immediacy

of it, we had the kindness of the

leadership of this House to debate this

and have a unanimous voice to support

this legislation. I cannot imagine that

we would have anyone turned away, or

turn away from; all we need is to go to

the floor and say Rwanda, because

there are many who are now wishing

that we had acted in the manner that

would have caused a pause in the

slaughter that was going on.

I deviate for one moment, because

both of us were smiling; we both met

Mr. Stokes who, I am going back to the

Brown v. Board of Education, and this

is a gentleman who came out of Prince

Edward County in Virginia, and was an

actual student who organized to say

that separate and unequal is certainly

not tolerable. We find now that he has

come full circle to say that the people

who were shut out of school did not

even get their education. He is an activist

again. He is rising again to activate

for those students who were cut

out of school from 1959 to 1964 for them

to be able to go back to school.

I just want to note that I will ask the

gentleman to join me on a resolution

that is going to applaud that work and

try to assist them in getting that kind

of help in Virginia, to be able to have

those throngs of individuals go back

into school and get their degree. I only

cite him because I was so moved by his

testimony and his statement, but he

was being active.

What

we need now by this body beyond this

Special Order is an immediate action. I

have seen a lot of bills come to suspension,

and I believe the gentleman’s resolution

warrants the waiving of regular

order. I am not sure if the gentleman

has had hearings yet, I do not want to

step on toes, but if not, I would almost

say that both of the gentleman’s chairpersons

would welcome the moving of

this document if the gentleman suggested

that that is the appropriate way

to proceed, and certainly we would follow

the gentleman’s leadership. But

this is a crisis of great moment, and I

hope they will listen to the gentleman

and listen as we have spoken tonight to

try to save the lives of Sudan.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to

me; I just wanted to make mention of

the work that the gentleman has done.