Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before Members

tonight to urge their support for House

Concurrent Resolution 467 which declares

genocide in the Darfur region of

western Sudan.

Unfortunately, there is no one among

us who is unfamiliar with the word

‘‘genocide.’’ Several of us have been

personally affected by genocide. The

mere mention of the word evokes the

horrific images of the gas chambers of

the Holocaust, the killing fields of

Cambodia, the mass graves of

Srebrenica, and the bloodied streets of

Rwanda. The atrocities committed in

these areas were heinous and must not

be belittled by casual usage of the word

‘‘genocide,’’ but I assure Members the

decision to bring this resolution to the

floor and to make such a declaration

has been anything but casual.

Out of a preconflict population of 6.5

million in Darfur, an estimated 30,000

people have been killed, another 300,000

face certain death in the coming

months. Up to 1 million have been internally

displaced, and 130,000 others

have been forced to flee to neighboring

Chad. Remember that this is happening

in a country that has undergone the

most horrific civil war for over 25

years, where 2 million people have died

and 4 million people have been displaced.

Against that backdrop, we now

have Darfur.

Reports by refugees, internally displaced

persons, and the United Nations

officials detail a systematic pattern of

attacks against civilians by government-

supported militias who employ

scorched earth tactics, murder, rape

and pillage with impunity. These attacks

have been conducted in a deliberate,

sequenced, and systematic fashion,

and according to a recent report

by the International Crisis Group,

‘‘have led to the depopulation of entire

areas inhabited by the Fur, Zaghawa,

Massaleit and other small groups of

black African origin.’’

I believe, and this resolution affirms,

that these atrocities meet the definition

of genocide as defined in the Convention

on the Prevention and Punishment

of the Crime of Genocide, signed

in Paris on December 9, 1948.

The manager’s amendment before

you does nothing to alter the purpose

of the underlying resolution. The

changes in the preamble are strictly

technical and perfecting. The changes

in the Resolved Clauses include clarifications

in the new text which, one,

make it clear that the Government of

Sudan has violated the convention, and

the prevention and punishment of the

crime of genocide; two, call for specific

actions by member states of the United

Nations; and three, recognize the leadership

of the administration in seeking

a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

On April 7, 2004, the same day that

world leaders were gathered in Kigali

to commemorate the 10-year anniversary

of the Rwandan genocide, United

Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

appeared before the U.N. Commission

on Human Rights stating that reports

of ethnic cleansing from Darfur had

left him with a ‘‘deep sense of foreboding,’’

and called for decisive action.

We are still waiting to see what decisive

action the United Nations will

take.

I am particularly disappointed in the

inaction of a few recalcitrant members

of the African Union, the Arab League,

and the Organization of Islamic Conference,

who seem comfortable with

sitting back while tens of thousands of

their African and Muslim brothers die.

To this end, the manager’s amendment

deplores the failure of the United Nations

Human Rights Commission to

condemn the gross violations of human

rights which have taken place in

Darfur, and calls on the United Nations

and the U.N. Secretary-General to assert

their leadership by calling the

atrocities by their rightful name, genocide.

It also calls on members of the

United Nations, particularly the member

states from the African Union, the

Arab League, and the Organization of

the Islamic Conference, to undertake

effective measures to stop the genocide

in Darfur.

The manager’s amendment also includes

language which commends the

robust response of the administration.

This administration has taken the lead

in attempting to resolve this crisis and

deserves credit for their efforts. However,

it is important to note that the

protection of human rights and the

prevention of genocide are not the responsibility

of a few; they are the responsibility

of us all. The United

States cannot do this alone. The

United Nations, the European Union,

the African Union, the Arab League

and others must step up now if we hope

to prevent this genocide from escalating.

True to form, Josef Stalin once callously

remarked, ‘‘One death is a tragedy.

A million deaths is a statistic.’’

Given his propensity for mass murder,

this remark comes as no surprise. I

submit, however, that those who have

died, those who face death, and those

who have lost their homes in Darfur

are not mere statistics. To really know

this tragedy is to think about the murder

of the little boy and girl whose

corpses lie in the sand, to imagine

their last moments of stark terror, and

to consider this brutal act repeated

30,000-fold.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before

you tonight is the product of a truly

collaborative effort and enjoys bipartisan

support. If we are going to attempt

to solve this problem, we must

first understand that which confronts

us in its totality. The first step is to

acknowledge that we are dealing with

genocide. The next step is to take action

to stop the atrocities. Let us not

look back 10 years from now, wishing

we had done more, saying what we

have heard said oftentimes on this

floor and in halls around the world

about Rwanda, ‘‘I wish we would have

done more. I wish we would have taken

action.’’

We do not want to be in that position

again. This is the time. This is the opportunity

we have to take those steps,

to take that action. This is not a political

issue as evidenced by the fact that

there is broad bipartisan support. This

is an issue of morality. It calls upon

every single one of us in this room and

on this planet to search our own hearts

and souls and to think about what it is

we can do individually to stop this

tragedy. It is a calling. It is a moral

calling on us all.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.