Mr. Speaker, I yield

myself such time as I may consume

and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First I would like to thank my

good friend and distinguished colleague

from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for introducing

this critically important resolution

and for his leadership on issues affecting

the entire African continent.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has the opportunity

to take a historic step today, to

send a message to the entire world that

we will no longer deal with genocide in

hindsight. Instead, we will denounce it

when we see it, we will take effective

steps to stop it, and we will hold those

who commit genocide responsible for

their monstrous actions. Today we face

one of the most tragic situations on

the planet, the crisis in Darfur, Western

Sudan. The Sudanese government

has planned, organized, and carried out

unspeakable atrocities against native

black African men, women, and children

with the deliberate intent to engage

in mass murder. Article 2 of the

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment

of the Crime of Genocide says:

Mr. Speaker, exactly what is the case

for declaring the crime of genocide

against the Khartoum government and

its Arab surrogates? They have killed

tens of thousands of individuals based

solely on their African identity. They

have caused serious bodily and mental

harm to over 130,000 people, dislocated

from Darfur into horrendous temporary

camps in neighboring Chad.

They have created over 1 million internally

displaced persons, destroyed their

homes and livelihood, and left them in

uninhabitable and remote areas without

food, medicine, and shelter.

These actions were taken specifically

to bring about their physical destruction

through starvation, exposure, and

disease. Khartoum has deliberately and

masterfully frustrated efforts to bring

humanitarian relief by the international

community while conducting

a vicious campaign of terror against

the men, women, and children of

Darfur. Finally, Mr. Speaker, they

have targeted men and boys for killing

and used rape as a weapon of war

against the women and girls of Darfur.

These actions have gone on far too

long. But those of us who months ago

were crying out for some sort of action

by the international community have

had reason in recent weeks to take

some heart. Both our own government

and the United Nations have started

taking steps to intervene in this horrendous

situation. I want to commend

Secretary of State Colin Powell for his

recent visit to Darfur and his efforts to

stop Khartoum’s genocidal efforts in

their tracks. I also want to commend

my friend U.N. Secretary-General Kofi

Annan for his recent trip to Darfur

where he too brought attention to the

atrocities and demanded the Sudanese

authorities stop the human destruction

and protect the people of Darfur.

It is incumbent upon us to support an

intervention protection force that will

stop the killing and protect citizens,

humanitarian relief workers and international

monitors. We must work

closely with the African Union and the

United Nations to bring peacekeeping

forces and diplomatic authority to

change Khartoum’s evil and monstrous

policies. Africa and the international

community cannot stand by while

black Africans are deliberately killed

because of who they are. This historic

action today by our Congress will signal

to the world that we will no longer

deal with genocide in hindsight, but we

will denounce it when we see it and

hold those who commit genocide responsible

for their evil actions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues

to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.