Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of H. Con. Res. 467, which calls the

current situation in Sudan by its proper name:

genocide.

Throughout years of civil war, the government

in Khartoum and its militia sympathizers

slaughtered tens of thousands of people in

Southern Sudan and enslaved many others.

Over the past two decades, it is estimated that

more than two million people have died from

war related causes and famine. Now violence

has escalated in the Darfur region of the

Western Sudan, where government-sponsored

militias have been ruthlessly targeting various

ethnic groups. More than 30,000 civilians have

already been brutally murdered and approximately

one million civilians have been forced

to flee their homes and are now either internally

dispatched or seeking refuge in neighboring

Chad. These numbers cannot capture

the horror of daily life in Sudan where violence,

death and disease run rampant and

young men cannot go outside the refugee

camps for fear of being killed. Any woman or

girl who dares to leave in search of food or

water instantly becomes a target for rape or

murder. With each passing day, more and

more people are suffering and dying. The

United States must act swiftly to end this

genocide and punish those responsible for

these heinous crimes against humanity.

By considering this resolution, we are taking

the first step in what will be a long road to

ending years of violence in Sudan. The President,

the Secretary of State, the U.N. and the

international community must all declare this

genocide and offer all assistance possible to

end the atrocities occurring in Sudan. It is my

hope that the international community will

come together and send a multi-national force

to Sudan to provide security and to help with

the delivery of humanitarian aid. If the world

community is unwilling to do so or cannot do

so in a timely manner then I believe the U.S.

should send a force of its own to Sudan.

Although I was an ardent opponent of the

war with Iraq, I do believe that in certain instances

unilateral force is both necessary and

justified. This is undoubtedly one of those

times. Tens of thousands of people have already

died and thousands more will perish if

we stand by and do nothing. If the world remains

silent in the face of genocide, then

America alone must act. The America that I

know and believe in is a moral leader in the

world and taking the leading role in bringing

an end to genocide in Sudan will save thousands

of lives and move us closer to fulfilling

our true destiny.