Mr. Speaker, I want to thank

the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. PAYNE, as

well as Chairman HYDE of the Committee on

International Relations, and all of the members

who have worked to bring H. Con. Res. 467

to the floor. I think it’s very important that Congress

act on this resolution before the August

recess. Tonight the House of Representatives

will go on record declaring the atrocities being

committed in the Darfur region of Sudan to be

‘‘genocide.’’ H. Con. Res. 467 is a statement

for the world, and a stark warning to the Sudanese

government.

We’ve heard about the atrocities government-

backed militias are perpetrating in

Darfur. This resolution cites an estimated

30,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered,

more than 130,000 people fleeing to neighboring

Chad, and more than one million people

internally displaced. The Africa Subcommittee

that I chair has held several hearings

on Sudan. We’ve heard about the human

suffering. We have also heard about how this

killing is targeted and systematic. Villages are

razed, crops are burned, and wells are

poisoned. I fully support this resolution’s determination

that genocide is occurring in Sudan,

as it played out in Rwanda ten years ago.

Those doing the killing need to understand

that the world is changing. We have international

courts to hold human rights criminals

accountable. Information is being collected.

The days of impunity are ending. That is a

message that this resolution sends.

H. Con. Res. 467 deplores the failure of the

United Nations Human Rights Commission to

take appropriate action on Darfur. Earlier this

year, the Commission failed to support a

United States led effort to strongly condemn

gross human rights violations in Darfur. Others

just don’t care. The administration has taken

the lead in seeking an end to the slaughter in

Darfur, and addressing the humanitarian crisis

there. Why do we seem to care about Darfur

more than African governments? We desperately

need African engagement, and outrage,

on Darfur. It is Africans who are being

slaughtered.

Indeed, the administration deserves much

credit for achieving a north-south peace accord

in Sudan. It has played a very good hand

with the cards it was dealt. Congress has

been supportive of these negotiations, including

with the Sudan Peace Act. But now we

have a genocide in the west of Sudan—in

Darfur.

Peace isn’t divisible in Sudan. It’s a cliche´ ,

but in Darfur, Khartoum is showing its true colors.

Today, that government is hearing loud

and clear that there will be no U.S. aid or improved

relations, no support for the peace

process, as long as the killing continues in

Darfur. Maybe that matters to Khartoum; to be

honest, maybe it doesn’t, which is a possibility

we need to prepare for. That is why H. Con.

Res. 467 urges the administration to seriously

consider multilateral or even unilateral intervention

to stop the genocide should the United

Nations Security Council fail to act. I don’t

think it needs this urging.

The suffering in Darfur is moving the American

people. There’s an awakening to the horror

being afflicted there. Tonight, the House of

Representatives is amplifying these concerns

for the world.