Mr.

Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

I rise today to join with the chairman

in support of H.R. 180, the Darfur

Accountability and Divestment Act.

I’m increasingly concerned, I’m outraged

in a sense, about the continuing

atrocities in the Darfur region of

Sudan. Without question, the horrific

actions of the janjaweed militia and

the Sudanese Government must immediately

end. And the nations of the

world must speak in unison against

this genocide, and that is what it is, a

genocide.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians

have been killed, many of them in particularly

brutal ways. Another estimated

2 million in Darfur have been

displaced refugees, plus hundreds of

thousands in Chad. This is a crisis that

must be addressed now and must be addressed

on each and every front.

Unfortunately, the international

community, specifically in the United

Nations, the U.N. has consistently

failed in efforts to bring peace to this

region. U.N. resolutions have lacked

the teeth or failed to be implemented,

and that is because of the Security

Council members such as China and

Russia as they continue to stall the

progress.

So as the U.N. slowly moves towards

a real peacekeeping force, other groups

are being forced to pull out because of

violence in the region. Thus, recently,

OxFam announced in June that they

will have to pull out of the largest

camp in Darfur, where more than

130,000 people have found shelter; and

without a way to protect humanitarian

aid flowing into the area, thousands

more will face starvation.

That is why I’m pleased we are bringing

this important legislation to the

floor today, the Darfur Accountability

and Divestment Act.

It requires the Secretary of the

Treasury to create a list of companies

that have a direct investment in or are

conducting businesses operations in

Sudan’s power, mineral, oil or military

equipment industries.

It authorizes States and local municipalities

to divest based on the

Treasury list or other lists to protect

them from lawsuits.

It amends the Investment Company

Act of 1940 and the Employee Retirement

Income Security Act of 1974 to

protect mutual funds and pension funds

from lawsuits if they choose to divest

from companies on the Treasury list.

And finally, fourthly, it prohibits the

U.S. Government from entering into or

renewing contracts with companies on

that list.

I was very pleased, as I say, Mr.

Speaker, with the chairman working in

a bipartisan manner with myself and

Ranking Member BACHUS on the committee,

and we agreed to make a number

of changes to the bill to address

some of the concerns made from our

side of the aisle. One of the specific

changes that was made was calls on

countries around the world to take

similar steps with regard to the situation.

The section states: ‘‘It is the sense of

the Congress that the governments of

all other countries should adopt measures,

similar to those contained in this

act, to publicize the activities of all

persons that, through their financial

dealings, knowingly or unknowingly

enable the Government of Sudan to

continue to oppress and commit genocide

against people in the Darfur region

and other regions of Sudan, and to

authorize divestment from, and the

avoidance of further investment in, the

persons.’’

As the distinguished ranking member

of the committee, Mr. BACHUS, has

noted, ‘‘Economic and financial considerations

are important, but in a loving

Nation can never be as justification for

complicity in genocide. Closing our financial

markets to those who participate

directly or indirectly in the

slaughter of innocent human beings is

well within our ability and ought to be

a bedrock principle. America is a loving

Nation, and allowing our financial

markets to be utilized by an evil regime

which conducts religious and racial

genocide is inconsistent with our

values and principles.’’

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the

balance of my time.

Mr.

Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I begin by saying that over the last

couple of years there have been multiple

genocides that occurred under the

U.N.’s watch. There was Bosnia, Rwanda

and now Darfur. Each time the U.N.

has failed to take appropriate action.

Each time it is because of political and

economic pressure.

When the current situation arose in

Darfur, the best that we could get out

of the U.N. and then-Secretary General

Kofi Annan was, at the anniversary of

Rwanda, simply a statement on the

floor of that anniversary and a moment

of silence and the pledge this shall

never happen again. Unfortunately, it

has happened again. That is why we are

here today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the

gentleman and a strong fighter on this

issue, the gentleman from Connecticut

(Mr. SHAYS).

Mr.

Speaker, just a concluding point, with

the need for us to take initial movement

on this but also to look for the

rest of the world community to become

involved.

It was just last year when U.N. Deputy

Secretary-General Mark Malloch

Brown said with regard to Darfur on

this point: ‘‘And yet what can the U.S.

do alone in the heart of Africa in a region

the size of France? In essence, the

U.S. is stymied before it even passes

Go. It needs a multilateral means to

address the Sudan’s concerns.’’ I believe

that is true, but this is the first

step in that direction.

With that, I once again thank the

gentlelady from California and the

chairman as well for their work together

in a bipartisan manner on this

legislation.