I thank the gentleman

very much and appreciate his work.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come here

today. It’s amazing, this suspension

calendar has so many big bills. The

chairman of the Financial Services

Committee points out this is important

legislation that we are discussing. It

may be on the suspension calendar, but

that’s only because there is unanimity.

There is a feeling on both sides of the

aisle, Republican and Democrat, House

and Senate, supporting these bills, as

well as the White House.

We will be dealing with the Darfur

Accountability Divestment Act of 2007,

the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of

2007. We are going to be expressing a

sense of the House of Representatives

that the Government of Japan should

formally acknowledge, apologize and

accept historical responsibility in a

clear and unequivocal manner for its

Imperial Armed Force’s coercion of

young women into the sex trade. We

are going to be urging the Government

of Canada to end the outrageous commercial

sea hunts. We will be amending

the Iran Sanctions Act, and we will

have a Belated Thank You to the Merchant

Mariners of World War II Act,

these brave men, in particular, and

women, who basically risked their lives

going back and forth to Europe and

haven’t gotten the recognition they deserve.

But let me speak specifically to

Darfur. I rise in support of H.R. 180,

which supports State, city and university

efforts to divest funds or restrict

investment in companies that conduct

business operations in Sudan.

First, let me say I have tremendous

respect for all those who have worked

to raise awareness of this important

issue, student groups and faith-based

organizations, especially from the African-

American, Jewish and Armenian

communities have done a wonderful

job, a really outstanding job of educating

their fellow citizens and lawmakers

about the crisis and the need to

respond.

In addition, this body owes a debt of

gratitude to Representative BARBARA

LEE, Representative FRANK WOLF,

Chairman TOM LANTOS and Chairman

BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and Ranking

Member Mr. BACHUS and others who

have kept the genocide of Darfur in our

forefront and consciousness.

The world collectively agreed to

never again allow genocide after the

Holocaust and again after the mass

murders of Rwanda in 1994. Tragically,

genocide is taking place, and the

United States must take all reasonable

steps to end the killing.

The United States has made a tremendous

commitment to the people of

Darfur in the form of humanitarian aid

and diplomatic efforts to end the genocide,

but more must be done. Divestment

is a very serious step for our government

to take against a nation that

does not threaten our security or the

security of our allies.

It is a tool that must be used sparingly,

but given the abhorrent crimes

that continue to be committed against

the Darfuri people, I believe it is a

most appropriate act.

The bottom line, as this legislation

states, is that no American should

have to worry that his or her investment

or pension money was earned in

support of genocide.

I urge all Members to vote for H.R.

180 and continue our efforts and commitment

to end violence in the Sudan.

I want to say, in closing, that we are

going to have to consider even more

significant acts. One is sanctions, but

we may need to consider a no-fly zone,

and, frankly, working with others,

military force. Obviously we have to

use our military sparingly, given their

overuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, but

can we expect that the African Union

can do more than send 7,000 troops? We

should be willing to pay for that, and

we are.

Can we expect that Europe should be

willing to step up and take action?

They are rarely willing to, but in this

case, I think we should expect they

should, especially given their minimal

role in Iraq and even their less than

full participation in Afghanistan.

Can we expect NATO to step up? That

involves the United States. Why not?

And that at the very end, if nothing

else happens, the U.S.

I was in Darfur in August of 2006,

meeting with the governor of Northern

Darfur. He was somewhat disturbed by

the killings going on in his own country.

But when I suggested that we

might need to take other action like a

no-fly zone, he was indignant. He was

outraged. He couldn’t accept it. That

got his attention. He wasn’t particularly

concerned that his own people

were killing each other with, frankly,

the consent of its own government, but

he was outraged to think that outside

governments might come in and stop

it.

We will have to deal with that outrage.

We have to stop the killing.