Mr. Speaker,

I find it very difficult for me to follow

such a most eloquent speech that was

given by my good friend from Virginia,

a true champion of human rights, and

as cochair of our Human Rights Caucus

also with the gentleman from California,

the chairman of our House Foreign

Affairs Committee, Mr. TOM LANTOS.

I want to thank the chairman of our

Financial Services Committee, Mr.

FRANK, for his leadership and for introducing

as well as following closely the

way that we have now come about in

bringing this very important legislation

for consideration by Members of

this body. I would be remiss if I did not

also express my sincere appreciation to

one of our former senior members of

our Foreign Affairs Committee who is

no longer with us, the gentlelady from

California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, for her

leadership and for her sensitivity especially

to the problems we are faced

with in Darfur. I thank also my good

friend, the chairman of our Africa subcommittee

of the Foreign Affairs Committee,

Mr. DON PAYNE, who I know

has also been working very closely in

crafting this legislation. My good

friend, the ranking member of our Foreign

Affairs Committee, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN,

and I know our chairman of

the Foreign Affairs Committee both

support it and I thank them for their

leadership in bringing this legislation

for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, over 400,000, 450,000 men,

women and children, especially children,

are already dead in the event of

the atrocities that have been committed

against these people in Darfur

and over 2 million refugees. According

to the Associated Press report just this

month, it says, the United Nations

Human Rights Committee, in its first

overall review of Sudan’s record in a

decade, said that systematic murder,

rape, forced evictions and attacks

against civilians continue to be committed

with total impunity throughout

the Sudan and particularly in Darfur.

That’s a fact. And what are we doing

about it? I think this legislation helps

move in that right direction, and I

can’t think of a better person, a leader

in our Chamber here, Ms. LEE, for taking

the leadership in this important

legislation, as it was in her predecessor,

our good friend Mr. Dellums

from California and his leadership in

presenting the importance of the role

sanctions can play in situations that

the global community should make

better efforts to support to get rid of

this terrible problem that we find ourselves

with in Darfur.