Thank you very much to Ranking Member Ros-

Lehtinen for your comprehensive statement.

Let me thank Chairman Lantos for calling this very important

and critical and timely hearing on the ongoing crisis in Darfur. I

welcome the President’s Special Envoy Andrew Natsios back to the

committee and on a personal note would like to express my condolences

for your recent loss.

As you say in your remarks, Mr. Natsios, the Darfur genocide did

not begin overnight. It was borne out of a history of tradition of

brutality, in which the former National Islamic Front regime, now

the National Congress Party (NCP) of the Government of Sudan,

based in Khartoum, has systematically destroyed different populations.

During the war it raged against the people against the

south for 21 years, and the NIF Government under President al-

Bashir armed the militia to destabilize southerners and carried out

bombardment of force and displaced people from the oil-producing

areas of the south.

The people of Ababia, Southern Blue Nile, Nuba, and countless

other areas of southern Sudan endured this campaign of terror.

Four million were displaced, 2 million were killed. Millions were affected

by the conflict. The so-called Government of Sudan under al-

Bashir, which came to power by military coup and gave safe haven

to our arch enemy Osama bin Laden for 5 years between 1991 and

1996, is anything but democratic. Yet our Government sees fit to

engage this regime as if they had credibility. This continues to confuse

and confound me.

Just as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which ended the

war against the people of the south on January 9, 2005, was being

prepared to be signed, the regime in Khartoum launched its new

front in the war on the people of Sudan and the western region of

Darfur. Under the NIF, NCP’s latest campaign of terror, the people

of Darfur have suffered tremendously. The old familiar tactics of

aerial bombardments, the use of helicopter gunships, the

Janjaweed, the hiring of militia, has been used again and again

and again by the Bashir regime. More than 400,000 innocent people

have been killed. More than 2.5 million people have been displaced.

Over 250,000 have fled to neighboring Chad, which is now

encountering serious instability and threats to the Government and

the civilians of Chad.

The ongoing genocide in Darfur has called into question the commitment

of the international community in saving African lives.

Two years ago, I introduced legislation authorizing a no-fly zone

calling for the use of our military assets in nearby Djibouti in prohibiting

oil tankers which dock in Port Sudan from entering United

States ports and calling for President Bush to use any means necessary

to end the genocide. Over 130 of my colleagues agreed that

these drastic measures were called for in the face of the mass destruction

of precious human lives. Yet some of our colleagues felt

these measures were too harsh. And so we passed legislation which

was not as far reaching and we see that the genocide continues to

this day.

Meanwhile, al-Bashir has blocked implementation of Security

Council Resolution 1706, which authorized U.N. peacekeepers to

support the less than 7,000 Africa Union troops. He talked the

international community out of its commitment to 1706. That its

agreement in November produced a three-phase plan with the AU–

U.N. hybrid force which by and largely simply negates 1706.

Even this, such as a compromise for Bashir’s sake, the brutal

leader, after putting that on the table, has simply even refused to

allow that to happen. So this is totally unacceptable.

I am encouraged that the President has approved the plan which

came out yesterday. I don’t know if it came out purposely or not,

but it did come out, as you know, the plan that the Treasury Department

has intentions to block United States commercial bank

transactions connected to the Bashir regime, particularly oil revenues.

You mentioned this Plan B to the Congressional Black Caucus

several months ago and stated that the deadline for Plan B was

January 1st. In order to show Khartoum we mean business, we

must really start to implement Plan B since we are going into the

middle of February.

The Darfur Peace Agreement continues to languish for the lack

of implementation and outright violation on the part of the NIF

and NCP Government.

Similarly, the CPA continues to languish for the lack of implementation

and outright violations on the part of the NIF, NCP

Government. We must realize we cannot have peace in Darfur

without peace in the south. They are inextricably linked and we

are seeing the CPA starting to be challenged.

I had a hearing last week on the lack of progress on the CPA

under the Subcommittee of Africa and Global Health, which I

chair, and I would like to continue to work with you, Mr. Natsios,

to come up with a strategy for pressuring Khartoum to fully implement

the CPA and end the genocide in Darfur. If the CPA fails,

there is no hope for peace in Darfur in the east or in any part of

the country.

I will be introducing legislation in the coming days which does—

which H.R. 1424 would have done 2 years ago and we will seek the

committee’s support toward ending the suffering in Darfur. This

unimaginable scar on our collective conscience must end.

At this time, it gives me an honor to ask Mr. Smith, a gentleman

I worked closely with during the past session of Congress, the

ranking member of the Africa Subcommittee, for 3 minutes.

Thank you, Mr. Smith.

At this time we will be pleased to provide 1-minute opening

statements for any members who wish to make one and I will ask

Mr. Meeks if he would like to.

Thank you very much. At this time I will hear the

gentleman who did go to South Sudan on his first codel as a Member

of Congress and saw the terrible situations there, Mr.

Tancredo.

At this time we will have a 1-minute opening statement

by Mr. Costa. He would like to give one.

Thank you very much.

And now we will hear about the subject of the escalating crisis

in Darfur. Are there prospects for peace? And our witness, as you

know, is the Honorable Andrew Natsios, Special Envoy to Sudan

and former Administrator for USAID.

Thank you very much for that comprehensive report.

I just wonder if you could deal with a little bit more with Plan B.

We did hear a bit about it from the *Post* yesterday about the Treasury

Department and the oil revenues transactions. Is there anything

else that you could tell us about Plan B at this time, and how

will it affect the situation on the ground?

Would it be classified to mention about the four

Army colonels on the Sudan-Chad border and whether they are assessing

the situation there in Chad and in the Darfur region?

On my last trip to Chad there was a strain on the

border and some of the infrastructure with a quarter-million people

over the border. What is the fragile situation? Is it getting worse?

The new Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, in his

meetings with us here in Washington, he said that Darfur is going

to be his number one issue. Have you had an opportunity to meet

with him and have you seen any new initiatives on the part of the

U.N.?

Thank you. My final question, if plan B for Darfur

does not work, would you support the deployment of the peacekeeping

force without the consent of Bashir? What is the policy of

that?

Well, let me certainly express my appreciation to Mr.

Natsios. I think this has been an instructive hearing. I just have

a quick question to ask you.

When I met with the secretary general of the Arab League, who

came over to a meeting held by former Secretary of State Madeline

Albright, Amr Moussa, I asked him about the commitment that the

League of Arab States made to paying, from July to December, the

cost of the African Union troops. At that time, he was unaware

that I knew that they did not live up to their commitment but said

they were going to go back and take a look at it. Have they remitted

the cost of the 7,000 AU troops from July to December to the

AU?

I appreciate that very much. I’m sorry if I disrupted

the meeting. They were all foreign ministers and diplomats. I

opened my remarks with that I was not a foreign minister and certainly

was not diplomatic.

However, let me just say that I once again appreciate,

I think that you have certainly put in a lot of energy. I don’t

think there is anyone in the government that is more competent

and qualified in the whole question of Sudan, and I commend you

for the time and effort that you have put in to it. However—be

careful when you get the howevers—I do believe that we have to

see better results. People are still dying. They are still in camps.

The Government of Sudan is going along as Nero did, fiddling

while Rome burned. We have to somehow light up the light of the

Government of Bashir, and I still contend that—I don’t know about

your plan B, but I have a plan C that I think we—you know, need

to look at some of the no-fly zones. I think that if we simply did

not put any United States troops on the ground but put a few

drones up and just took down a couple of Sudanese planes or just

destroyed a bunch of them on the ground without putting any of

our soldiers in harm’s way, you could do it I think probably from

Miami, pushing some buttons, that until we really show this corrupt

government that diplomacy and sanctions and all of those

things are the only thing on the table, then I think we are going

to come back a year from now, 2 years from now, and they will still

be fiddling. And so that is—like I said—plan C, that if all of your

hard work continues to go for nothing, then I think that we just

need to take a few places out. With that, at this point, Mr. Natsios

and committee members, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the

record the statement of Susan Rice, Dr. Rice, who is a senior fellow

at the Brookings Institute. Without objection. At this time the

meeting stands adjourned. Thank you.