Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman; and let me

first commend you for your personal leadership on this most important

and pressing issue.

I want to welcome Ambassador Frazer and Mr. Pierson.

Mr. Chairman, Members of our Committee have been engaged in

the heart-rending situation in Sudan for many years as it has faced

famine, internal strife and outright civil war; and since the start

of the appalling crisis in the Darfur region you have repeatedly

spoken out. Our colleague and my friend, Mr. Payne, offered

groundbreaking legislation in 2004, calling the situation in Darfur

genocide.

Mr. Chairman, you led the way on the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act of 2006 now being discussed in House Senate negotiations;

and, just yesterday, our colleague, Ms. Lee, and six other

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus subjected themselves

to arrest on the steps of the Sudanese embassy, as I and other colleagues

had done in April, to keep attention focused on Sudan’s

brutal prosecution of its own people in Darfur.

Ultimately, though, Congress can do only so much. The Administration

must use its international clout to see to it that words become

deeds, that agreements are enforced, and that countries

around the world can no longer ignore what is happening in

Darfur, and we will put a stop to that.

Mr. Chairman, the task of bringing peace to Darfur has been

daunting. The Sudanese Government and its notorious Arab militia,

the Janjaweed, have massacred hundreds of thousands of civilians,

raped girls and women in a brutal intimidation campaign,

displaced over 2 million people, burned 60 percent of their villages,

destroyed their livestock and crops, and poisoned their wells.

While international pressure, led by the United States, continued

to mount during the past few months, the Government of Sudan

opposed every possible proposal to bring stability and relief to

Darfur. Sudan rejected a proposal in March to deploy UN peacekeepers

to Darfur and threatened to resign from the African Union

if the African Union Peace and Security Council voted to hand over

the mission to the United Nations.

To maintain the pressure, in April, the President ordered a

freeze on the assets of anyone who posed a threat to stability in

Darfur and barred United States citizens and companies from

doing business with them. Meantime, the United Nations Security

Council imposed travel and financial sanctions against four Sudanese

thugs suspected of involvement in atrocities against civilians.

Mr. Chairman, international pressure on Sudan finally paid off

2 short weeks ago. I was pleased to be able to discuss this at length

with Secretary-General Kofi Annan just a few days ago, and I want

to pay tribute to Deputy Secretary of State Zoellick for his extraordinary

efforts in reaching this agreement.

The agreement that we have reached is not perfect, but it does

lay the foundation to move Darfur forward in the same way as the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Khartoum and southern

Sudan.

In spite of this historic agreement, the situation in Darfur is very

far from being resolved. Two small rebel groups have refused to

sign, demanding more concessions from the Khartoum Govern-

ment. The Arab Janjaweed must be disarmed and rebel forces integrated

into the national army.

Mr. Chairman, the work of transforming the African Union mission

into a larger, more robust and more mobile United Nations operation

has begun with the passage of the UN Security Council resolution.

According to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, this follow-on

UN force will be much bigger than the current African Union force,

but it will need major logistical support from member states that

are in a position to provide it. NATO is just the entity to coordinate

the necessary support for the Darfur mission.

I have introduced House Resolution 723, calling on the President

to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in

Darfur, with specific emphasis on civilian protection through

NATO involvement.

I hope we can approve this resolution in the very near future,

but we can’t wait until a truly effective civilian protection force is

established in Darfur. The international community has a moral

imperative to ensure that tens of thousands of civilians don’t perish

waiting for help to arrive. But that is precisely what may occur.

Earlier this week, the World Food Program announced it would

have to cut rations in Darfur in half due to lack of financial support.

I find this particularly appalling in view of the fact that the

oil-exporting countries had suddenly received tens of billions of

windfall revenues as a result of sky-high oil prices, but their help

to Darfur is nil. The people of Darfur are experiencing a genocide,

and the international community is cutting their food supplies in

half. Did the world learn nothing from the Holocaust, from Cambodia

and from Rwanda?

We contributed 85 percent of the funding for the World Food Program’s

efforts in Darfur. When a pledging conference is belatedly

held next month, the Administration must make it clear to other

donors, and potential donors, that turning a blind eye to starvation

in Darfur is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for convening this important and timely

hearing. The road to this fragile peace agreement has been long

and hard, but the people of Darfur have suffered horribly and are

desperate for help. With the Darfur peace deal, there is reason to

hope that the end to this human tragedy has begun, but we are

only at the beginning.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me commend our

two witnesses.

I want to follow up on the last part of this discussion because the

whole tragedy in Darfur also reminds one of the lunatic irrationality

of anti-Americanism on this planet. We have done more than

the rest of the global community combined to assist. At the highest

levels of our Government, involving Secretary Rice and Deputy Secretary

Zoellick, your own work, 85 percent of the food aid which

has gone is American, and yet of the extra petrol billions flowing

into the coffers of Putin and Chavez and the Saudis, not one dime

has gone to deal with this global disaster.

I am not asking you to explain this, because it is inexplicable,

but it is appalling that as the United States leads the way in yet

another humanitarian crisis, in an almost exclusive fashion, the

criticism, from all quarters, of our international actions continues

unabated.

Now, I would be the first one to recognize we have made plenty

of mistakes, but let me just say—if you would care to comment—

to my knowledge, Libya is the only Arab country which has provided

some assistance to Darfur. Not one of the countries of the Islamic

Alliance has done anything. Saudi Arabia has done nothing.

The Saudi foreign minister is in town. Several of us were to have

dinner with him last night, which we had to cancel because Congress

was in session, and I am just wondering if you can expand

on this set of demarches to 24 countries which should have responded—

in many cases, promised—and have done nothing so far.

So Ambassador Frazer or Mr. Pierson, I would be happy to hear

from either of you.

In view of the extra billions in petrol dollar earnings

that go to the oil-exporting countries from Venezuela to Saudi

Arabia to Russia, their lack of participation in this global humanitarian

crisis is absolutely appalling; and I would be grateful if you

would submit for the record before the end of the day, the 24 countries

where demarches have been made by our Government.

Again, although we are leading the way, the United States is the

butt of global criticism; and I think it is important that we on this

Committee stand up and reject this as an outrageous singling out

of the country which is doing more than the entire world combined

to deal with this crisis.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.