I have today signed into law H.R. 5531,

the ‘‘Sudan Peace Act.’’ This Act demonstrates

the clear resolve of the United

States to promote a lasting, just peace;

human rights; and freedom from persecution

for the people of Sudan. The Act is designed

to help address the evils inflicted on the people

of Sudan by their government—including

senseless suffering, use of emergency food

relief as a weapon of war, and the practice

of slavery—and to press the parties, and in

particular the Sudanese Government, to

complete in good faith the negotiations to

end the war.

Section 6(b) of the Act purports to direct

or burden the conduct of negotiations by the

executive branch with foreign governments,

international financial institutions, and the

United Nations Security Council and purports

to establish U.S. foreign policy objectives.

The executive branch shall construe

these provisions as advisory because such

provisions, if construed as mandatory, would

impermissibly interfere with the President’s

exercise of his constitutional authorities to

conduct the Nation’s foreign affairs, participate

in international negotiations, and supervise

the unitary executive branch.

Several provisions of the Act purport to

require executive branch reports to congressional

committees concerning the contents of

U.S. diplomatic advocacy, plans for U.S. diplomatic

activities to achieve particular foreign

policy objectives, and information on particular

activities abroad. The executive

branch shall construe these provisions in a

manner consistent with the President’s constitutional

authority to withhold information,

the disclosure of which could impair the foreign

relations, the national security, the deliberative

processes of the Executive, or the

performance of the Executive’s constitutional

duties. The Secretary of State will, of course,

continue as a matter of comity to keep the

Congress appropriately informed of the Nation’s

foreign affairs activities.

A provision of the Act defines a particular

entity as the ‘‘Government of Sudan’’ for purposes

of implementing the Act. The executive

branch shall construe the Act in a manner

consistent with the President’s constitutional

authority for the United States to recognize

foreign states and to determine what

constitutes the governments of such foreign

states.