Mr. President, there is a

second issue I want to mention that I

addressed 2 weeks ago on the floor of

the Senate and want to follow up on. It

has to do with a tragic situation in

Sudan, in the western part of Sudan in

the three states of Darfur, Sudan.

The situation there, even over the

last 3 weeks, has steadily deteriorated.

We have hundreds of thousands of refugees

that are currently at risk. We are

entering the rainy season there, and

that makes the delivery of relief supplies

very difficult.

Since my comments on the floor of

the Senate, Secretary of State Powell,

in the first week of this month, went to

the Darfur region and made observations

and certain requests. At about

the same time, Secretary General Kofi

Annan also visited the region and made

certain requests. Senator BROWNBACK,

our distinguished colleague from Kansas,

subsequent to their visit, also visited

the region and made observations

and with a video camera took some

traumatic footage of the devastation

going on there. Another delegation

from the House will be going shortly.

We have to take action to address

this humanitarian problem. The administration

is working hard to get relief

to these people who are suffering,

but there is systematic violence that is

going on against the civilian populations

in Darfur by the government

and by the militias that are supported

by the government. That violence must

come to an end.

I spend a lot of time in the Sudan and

each year go to southern Sudan as part

of medical mission work that I do. In

the coming weeks or months, I will be

returning to Sudan as part of this medical

mission work. I look forward at

that point in time to seeing if we are

having an impact in both the southern

part of the Sudan but also in the

Darfur region and will report back to

this body. Hopefully we will be able to

report that we are making progress.

Two million people are being affected

by this crisis, so it is a large crisis. I do

ask the Government of Sudan to take

immediate steps to end the violence in

that part of the world.