Mr. President, I

wish to talk about the situation in

Sudan. The situation in Darfur has

been widely noted and known. It is deteriorating.

It is deteriorating slowly.

We want to get the factions back together

to try to talk about what it is

we can do to bring some stability.

Something that is not widely followed

right now is the deteriorating

situation between the north and south.

We have had a long-term peace agreement

in place now for a couple of years

between the north and south that

ended the longest running civil war in

Africa. It had been going on for 20

years. Two million people were killed.

Now the south has backed away somewhat

from the government. The north

government is not complying with the

peace agreement. I will be bringing out

a more full statement to my colleagues.

This is very dangerous, as far

as the situation that now we could get

back into a problem between the north

and the south again, and have two

fronts going.

In the south, long term, there was a

genocide going on there before it took

place in Darfur. We have to be vigilant

toward the Sudanese Government,

which is the problem. This is a genocidal

government in Khartoum. We

have to get on top of that situation and

make sure it doesn’t deteriorate between

the north along with what is

taking place in the west and Darfur. It

could well be that Sudan in the future

is a country that breaks up into three

or four different countries because of

the way the Khartoum government is

trying to force people into their ideological

box. It is a militant Islamist

government started by Osama bin

Laden, this iteration. It is the problem,

but we have to deal with it, where it is

in this situation. I don’t want us to

take our eyes off the ball.

In the south, where there has been a

lot of work over a long period of time

to get that peace, I hope that we not

lose that peace in the overall situation.

Finally, the President of Congo is in

Washington now. I met with him yesterday,

along with a number of my colleagues.

One of the issues I want to

bring up here, and I will be developing

some legislation, is that a number of

radical militant groups are raiding in

the eastern part of the Congo. They are

dislocating nearly 450,000 people now.

In these guerrilla movements, what

they do is get control of an area and

then they get mineral rights for individuals

or to groups to come in and

mine things, such as coaltan. It is a

particular metal used in making cell

phones. That is how they finance their

rebel movement. We saw this in the

blood diamond issue in western Africa.

What we did then was put a certification

process together, that you had

to certify that the diamonds came from

legitimate means, and that shut the financing

down.

My hope is we can do something

similar in the Congo, where we can

have a certification on minerals like

the coaltan and then shut the financing

down for these groups that run civilian

populations out of an area. I

think that is something we can do

credibly. Our markets and our economy

are our key foreign policy tools.

Here is a place where we can use the

U.S. market to try to help bring stability

to a region that is key for stability

throughout Africa. If we get stability

in the Congo it might bring stability

throughout the region. I hope we

can do those things.

I appreciate my colleagues’ time and

yield the floor.