Mr. President, I

stated my support for my distinguished

colleague from Virginia who chairs the

Armed Services Committee. He did a

wonderful job with that. This is such

an important topic, even though we

tend to think of the world as a stable

place where we don’t have to worry

about it. I am glad he is worried about

it and is so focused on it.

That is what I would like to draw the

body’s attention to right now, a situation

that was reported this week in the

reporting organizations of Reuters, the

Associated Press, and the New York

Times. This is a very troubling situation.

It is in a part of the world that

has experienced a great deal of trouble,

but nonetheless, I want to point it out

to this body.

On July 23, 22 bombs were reported

dropped on two villages in Sudan—

Lainya and Kaaya—resulting in internal

hemorrhaging, miscarriages, animals

dying among the villages. Several

days later, after the bombs had fallen

on this one village, United Nations relief

workers with World Food Programme

visited the town of Lainya and

immediately fell ill with strange symptoms.

They were consequently evacuated

to Kampala, Uganda, for testing

even as they continued to physically

suffer.

This, in turn, precipitated the beginning

of a United Nations investigation

into the use of chemical weapons, as

reported this week by those three news

organizations, chemical weapons that

the chairman of the Armed Services

Committee was just noting, that the

biggest threat we are facing in the future

is weapons of mass destruction.

We are seeing here this week, reported

in the newspaper, what has taken place

in the Sudan, the symptoms of chemical

weapons being reported.

We can’t at this time jump to conclusions

that they were actually used, but

the evidence points clearly to the use

of chemical weapons by the organization,

by the government in Khartoum

against its own civilian population in

the southern part of that country.

This is also a government in Khartoum

that is sponsoring terrorists

around the world, where Osama bin

Laden stayed and was hosted by them

up until 1997 in Khartoum. They are

trying to expand in three adjacent

countries, saying we want to take our

view of how the world should be organized

into these countries and we are

willing to do it by any means. We are

even willing to use any means against

our own people, against our own people.

They have killed in their own country

2 million people. They have pushed

out and dislocated an additional 4 million

people. Last year alone, they

forced into starvation 100,000 people by

denying our food aid to go where these

people were located. They said: You

cannot fly your relief planes to feed

these poor people. Now they continue

to bomb their civilian population, even

with, if the evidence this week is

proved true, chemical weapons.

I think this is so horrifying. I wanted

to draw the attention of the Senate to

what has been reported by these three

news organizations this week and to

call on the nation of Sudan to stop

bombing its own civilian population, to

refuse to do that, to call upon the U.N.

to, with as much speed and haste as

possible, conduct a full investigation of

what has been reported this week as

having happened to the civilian population,

and call on U.S. authorities to

investigate this as fully as we can to

see what actually took place. If true,

this is truly horrifying, that weapons

of mass destruction such as these

chemical weapons would be used

against their own civilian population. I

think it is just absolutely unconscionable,

virtually unbelievable.

This is also a government that continues

to allow slavery to be conducted

on in its country. There have actually

been thousands of people purchased

back from their slave masters. As we

approach the new millennium, one

would think that at least the institution

of slavery would be gone from the world.

It is not. One would think the

use of chemical weapons would be gone

from the world today, but it is not.

These things must be investigated to

the fullest extent, and if chemical

weapons were, indeed, used, the Government

of Sudan must be brought in

front of the international bodies, the

international court of shame, and put

in that pariah nation category. They

currently, of course, are one of the

seven terrorist nations in the entire

world that the U.S. Government lists

as a terrorist nation. But the possible

use of chemical weapons, as reported

this week, takes this to an unbelievable

level against its own population.

That is why, even though this is a late

hour, I draw this to the attention of the body.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the

floor and suggest the absence of a

quorum.