Madam President, I

rise in support of S. Con. Res. 99, condemning

the Government of the Republic

of the Sudan for its participation

and complicity in the attacks against

innocent civilians in the impoverished

Darfur region of western Sudan.

I commend my fellow cosponsors of

this resolution for taking this essential

first step in addressing the dual crises

in Sudan. We must condemn the Government

of Sudan for its complicity in

the human rights abuses and their

gross failure to put an end to the current

genocide.

In addition to the gross human rights

violations, we now face a humanitarian

disaster. Over a million people are displaced

and well over a hundred thousand

have fled over the border to Chad.

The Government of Sudan is only

making matters more difficult by resisting,

delaying, frustrating the work

of humanitarian assistance groups, and

the situation gets worse. Roads in the

region are only accessible to the most

sturdy of jeeps and trucks, and once

the rainy season starts in just a couple

of weeks, those roads will be wiped out,

cutting off aid altogether. The clock is

ticking. We certainly cannot control

Mother Nature, so the world must act

now.

I believe there are a few essentials

that we should do immediately. First,

the United States must push the

United Nations Security Council to authorize

a stability and support operation

under chapter VII to help stop

the atrocities and help distribute humanitarian

aid. I would also like to see

an expansion of the civilian protection

monitoring teams into the Darfur region.

The Government of Sudan has

had long enough time to stop the killing

and facilitate the flow of aid. With

the rainy season coming, we cannot

tell the people of Darfur to give their

government more time to comply.

This may sound as if it is a radical

step, but this step is needed. We should

not be, and do not want to be, in the

situation 6 months or a year or 2 years

from now where we look back and say

we should have taken this step—oh, if

we only would have sent this U.N. force

in; if we only would have sent these

troops in we could have saved hundreds

of thousands of lives—because that is

the situation we are going to be in. We

are going to look back and say, if we

only would have acted, if the world

only would have acted, these lives

could have been saved. Why didn’t we

act? That is what has to take place.

That, clearly, is what should take

place.

Second, I believe Congress should

amend the Sudan Peace Act to require

improvements in Darfur. We have the

ability here in Congress to do that.

Third, the United States should target

sanctions against any members of

the Sudanese Government found to be

involved in these atrocities. We have

done it in regard to other individuals

in other governments in other countries.

We should do it in regard to these

individuals. We should make it very

clear to them they will be held accountable.

Finally, the international community

must act now. We need a special

session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission

to appoint a special rapporteur

for Sudan. The international community

should also consider a special tribunal

to investigate the atrocities.

These steps form a broad outline of

what must be done. We must work together

with the administration in the

coming days to iron out the details so

we can move forward. The crisis is

here, it is now, and this is what we

must do. Clearly, this is a case of genocide,

and the international community

must face its moral responsibility to

act.