Mr. President, genocide

has only one morally tenable answer.

This week, the United Nations found

that answer: decisive and forceful action

to protect the innocent. Tuesday’s

Security Council resolution put real

teeth in the world’s effort to stop the

Darfur genocide: A paltry contingent of

7,000 African Union peacekeepers will

swell with 26,000 more troops in a combined

UN/AU force.

The peacekeepers will take command

of the region by the end of the year,

and their arms will help to shield the

people of Darfur from continued murder

and rape and displacement.

I applaud this resolution. We all

know that it comes 450,000 lives too

late. But the UN’s action looks positively

instantaneous when set against

the delay and the equivocation of our

own Government. Special Envoy Andrew

Natsios assured the world that

American action was ‘‘imminent’’ 7

months ago. And it was 2 years ago

that President Bush declared the

crimes in Darfur ‘‘genocide.’’

But there is still time for America to

act, and a vital role for America to

play. The Security Council’s force resolution,

as valuable as it is, came at a

price: To mollify China and several African

member states, its provisions for

multilateral sanctions on Sudan were

significantly softened. We can, and

must, fill the gap with unilateral sanctions

of our own.

Multilateral force combined with

American sanctions would show the

international system working at its

best. The world community has agreed

to act against genocide; now, the

United States can work in the spirit of

that resolution and do its own part to

bring the suffering to an end. Our economic

muscle can be a potent weapon.

Three sanctions bills are before the

Senate. Two S. 831—the Sudan Divestment

Authorization Act of 2007, and S.

1563, the Sudan Disclosure and Enforcement

Act of 2007—have been authored

by my friend and colleague, Senator

DURBIN. From the very start, his voice

has been the strongest in the Senate on

the Darfur genocide, and his tremendous

leadership stands in stark contrast

to this administration.

A third sanctions bill—H.R. 180, the

Darfur Accountability and Divestment

Act of 2007—has been authored by Representative

BARBARA LEE, whose leadership

ranks with Senator DURBIN’s. I

have asked the majority leader to expedite

consideration of all of these

bills.

I would like to focus for a moment on

Representative LEE’s bill. It aims to

punish the bloodstained Government of

Sudan by assisting divestment from

companies that—knowingly or not—

have helped to fund the genocide. H.R.

180 requires the Department of the

Treasury to develop a list of companies

investing in specific sectors of the Sudanese

economy: power production,

mineral extraction, oil-related industries,

and military equipment industries.

Before being put on the list, companies

are given 30 days to either rebut

the designation or to say that they will

be suspending such activities within a

year. The bill also removes specific

legal barriers to enable mutual fund

and corporate pension fund managers

to cut ties with these listed companies.

And it allows States and localities to

divest their public pension funds from

those companies whose financial operations

help support the genocidal practices

of the Sudanese Government.

In ultimately leading to the withdrawal

of funds from the Sudanese

military machine, the bill does valuable

work. But I am concerned that it

entrusts the compilation of the list of

companies to the wrong agency, Treasury’s

Office of Foreign Asset Control.

OFAC is an enforcement agency, and

such investigation is not in its mission.

I believe the job is better entrusted

to an interagency task force combining

the varied strengths of the Departments

of Treasury, State, and Energy,

along with the SEC. This combined approach

will mean that our efforts toward

divestment are as fair, effective,

targeted, and transparent as they can

be. So I have proposed amending the divestment

bill to that effect; a second

amendment authorizes $2 million to

make this divestment task force a reality.

But whatever form they take, sanctions

need to pass now. As the UN/AU

force stabilizes Darfur, we must do our

utmost to choke off the money that

has oiled the machinery of slaughter.

To those of my colleagues who are

standing in the way of swift action, I

ask:

What more do you need to see?

What more do we need to prove?

What more could it possibly take to

move you?

I urge my colleagues to support H.R.

180, as amended, and the two other

strong Senate bills.