Mr. President, I come

to the floor this evening to address an

issue which I have addressed every

week for several months now. It is the

ongoing genocide in Darfur. How long

are we going to allow this genocide to

continue? How long will we allow mass

killings, rapes, torture and the

torching of homes and entire villages?

How long will we tolerate 200,000,

maybe 400,000 deaths? How long will we

tolerate 2.5 million people displaced

from their homes, a refugee crisis in

Chad and other nearby crises? How

long will the global community tolerate

such brutality in today’s world.

In May, more than 4 years after the

crisis in Darfur began, President Bush

said:

I agree with the President. I agree,

and I call on the President to help

America take action by use his upcoming

visit with Russian President Vladimir

Putin to demand a halt to Russian

military sales to the Sudanese Government,

sales that fuel the violence and

are in violation of the U.N. arms embargo.

My colleagues on both sides of

the aisle—Senator SAM BROWNBACK,

Republican of Kansas; RUSS FEINGOLD,

Democrat of Wisconsin; GORDON SMITH,

Republican of Oregon—have joined me

in a bipartisan request. Together we

wrote President Bush asking him to

take action on this urgent issue when

he meets with the President Putin.

Russia can’t claim to be a responsible

leader in the global community and at

the same time flaunt United Nations

sanctions established to help end this

ongoing genocide. Mr. Putin cannot

have it both ways.

Amnesty International recently reported

that Russia and China, two permanent

members of the U.N. Security

Council, are supplying the bulk of

weapons to Sudan. That is right. Two

permanent members of the U.N. Security

Council are providing the weapons

and ammunition being used by the Sudanese

Government to perpetuate the

genocide, killing innocent life. That is

unacceptable. Mr. Putin must put an

end to weapons sales. Weapons sold to

the Sudanese Government contribute

to the massive human misery and violence

in Darfur. As I speak today,

human rights violations, rapes, murders,

attacks on humanitarian workers

continue without end. The accounts

are ongoing and widespread.

For example, the Associated Press recently

reported a horrible story, one

that is sadly too common in Darfur.

Seven women at a refugee camp in

Kalma, Darfur, pooled their money to

rent a donkey and a cart. They ventured

out of the camp to gather firewood,

which they hoped they might be

able to sell and use the proceeds to feed

their families. A few hours away from

the camp, they were attacked and

robbed by the Janjaweed militia. They

were gang raped and beaten. They had

to flee naked back to the camp.

According to Amnesty International,

in recent years, Russia exported to

Sudan $21 million worth of aircraft and

related equipment and more than $13

million worth of helicopters. Witnesses

have documented Russian attack helicopters

used by the Sudanese Air Force

during Janjaweed attacks. Russianbuilt

Antonov aircraft have been seen

bombing areas along the border with

Chad.

I have photos I will share with those

following the debate. This is an MI–24

attack helicopter at Nyala airport in

Darfur, March 2007. It is a Russian helicopter.

According to the United Nations,

the sales of this aircraft are prohibited.

The Russians make these

sales, and these helicopters are used to

kill innocent people. President Bush is

meeting with the President of Russia. I

hope he will mention this attack helicopter

and how it is being misused in

violation of U.N. resolutions.

Similarly, this is the Antonov-26 aircraft

spotted in many places in Darfur

between January and March 2007,

parked here at Nyala airport in late

March 2007, another Russian aircraft

sold in violation of U.N. resolutions

that can be used, unfortunately, to sustain

a government which is perpetuating

a genocide. Russia should not be

helping the genocidal efforts of the Sudanese

Government.

It has been 21⁄2 years since President

Bush decisively called the crisis in

Darfur a genocide. We have tightened

sanctions and called for greater action

to stop it, and I applaud that. But we

must do more. I have appealed to the

President personally and directly on

three different occasions. Last week, I

appealed to Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice to seize every single

opportunity to make the genocide in

Darfur a big issue, an issue of diplomacy

and for action.

I say to the President, we have many

issues to discuss with our Russian partners,

ranging from cooperation in preventing

the spread of nuclear weapons

and materials to reaffirming support

for basic democratic principles and institutions

in Russia. Our relationship

with Russia is a very important one.

But we can’t look the other way when

an ally is aiding in a genocide. I hope

President Bush will use his visit with

President Putin to help highlight an

issue that requires immediate attention,

helping to stem the crisis in

Darfur. Put an end to this genocide by

putting an end to Russian weapons

sales to the Sudanese Government.

I yield the floor.