

Whereas the United States continues to lead the world in its contributions to efforts to end the genocide in Darfur, including by providing more than \$4,500,000,000 since 2004 in response to the Darfur crisis;

Whereas continued failure on the part of the international community to take all steps necessary to generate, deploy, and maintain an effective United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force will result in the continued loss of life and further degradation of humanitarian infrastructure in Darfur; and

Whereas it would be inexcusable for the international community to allow an authorized peacekeeping mission intended to help bring an end to genocide and its effects to founder or be compromised because of a failure to commit critical elements, such as the 24 helicopters needed to meet the critical mobility capabilities of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) urges the members of the international community, including the United States, that possess the capability to provide the tactical and utility helicopters needed for the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur to do so as soon as possible; and

(2) urges the President to intervene personally by contacting other heads of state and asking them to contribute the aircraft and crews for the Darfur mission.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on December 31, the United Nations and the African Union jointly assumed control of the peacekeeping mission in Darfur. But, sadly, little has changed for the people of Darfur.

The United Nations Security Council has authorized over 26,000 peacekeepers, but just over 9,000 are on the ground in Darfur.

The government of Sudan had promised to abide by the United Nations resolution, but it continues to obstruct it at almost every turn.

Some of the rebel leaders have begun to join in coalitions with one another, an important step for the peace process, but others continue to prey on civilians and humanitarian aid workers and to threaten peacekeepers.

And the nations of the world had pledged to help end the genocide, but they are falling short where it counts.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reports that no one has stepped up to provide the 24 helicopters that are needed to transport and protect the peacekeepers and to give them the mobility that they need to do their jobs.

That is inexcusable. We cannot allow genocide and suffering to continue because the combined nations of the world cannot find 24 helicopters to help stop it.

That is why today, joined by Senator LUGAR and a number of other colleagues, I have introduced a resolution expressing the Sense of the Senate that the world must not allow this peacekeeping mission to founder because we cannot find 24 suitable aircraft within our vast arsenals.

I recognize that helicopters are expensive vehicles that are in short supply, with wars raging in Afghanistan and Iraq and with peacekeeping missions in the Congo and now being deployed to Chad as well.

But a considerable number of nations possess aerial vehicles with the capabilities that are needed for this mission. Together, we could fill this gap.

The United Nations is seeking 18 utility and 6 tactical helicopters. According to a piece in the Washington Post, the member nations of NATO alone possess over 18,000 helicopters.

Not all of these 18,000 aircraft would be suitable for this mission. NATO reserves are taxed in Afghanistan and elsewhere, but the potential vehicles certainly exist. NATO is not alone in this capability. Other countries could also step up to fill this need.

Secretary General Ban has stated that these vehicles are indispensable. He reports that the United Nations-African Union mission must “be capable of rapid mobility over large distances, especially over terrain where roads are the exception.” Ban also said that “Without the missing helicopters, this mobility—a fundamental requirement for the implementation of the [Security Council’s] mandate—will not be possible.”

Helicopters alone will not save Darfur. The needs there are immense and growing. The United Nations revealed last month that acute malnutrition in the region is rising and surpassing emergency levels in some areas. To make matters worse, the Government of Khartoum is continuing to obstruct deployment of U.N. peacekeepers. They have objected to non-African peacekeepers, such as a team of Norwegian engineers, and they are slowing deployment by denying visas and land permits and denying night flights. Most seriously of all, earlier this month, Sudanese troops opened fire on a clearly marked U.N. convoy, badly injuring a driver.

The world must not allow the Khartoum government to dictate terms to the UN mission. The European Union and United Nations Security Council should, I believe, join the United States in imposing strong economic sanctions on the Sudanese government.

We should also continue to pressure the rebel groups to cease all attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers and engage in a peace process to bring a real solution for the people of Darfur.

We should do all these things and more, but, first and foremost, we should ensure that the United Nations and African Union have the tools that they need to carry out their mission.

The United States has already provided more than \$4.5 billion since 2004 in response to the Darfur crisis. That is an enormous contribution and it should not fall on our shoulders to fill this particular gap in the peacekeeping mission.

That is why I have repeatedly written President Bush asking him to use the powers of persuasion of his office to personally contact other heads of state to ask them to commit the needed vehicles and crews. I have also written the Secretary General of NATO and President Hu of China, asking them to help fill this gap.

Our resolution urges the members of the international community with the necessary assets to contribute the needed vehicles and crews.

Preventing genocide is a global responsibility. Too often the world has failed to keep this commitment, and it has failed Darfur for too long.

We cannot allow the government of Khartoum to block deployment of the 26,000 peacekeepers, but it would perhaps be even more unforgivable if the international community refuses to provide the peacekeepers with the equipment and vehicles that they need. Then we will have done Khartoum’s job for them by obstructing ourselves.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3951. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3930 submitted by Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2248, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3952. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3901 submitted by Mr. KENNEDY and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3953. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3859 submitted by Mr. CARDIN and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3954. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3955. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3915 submitted by Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. DODD) and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3911 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3956. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3918 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3957. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3932 submitted by Mr. WHITEHOUSE and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3911 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3958. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3929 submitted by Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. MIKULSKI) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3959. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3903 submitted by Mr. KYL and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2248, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3951. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3930 submitted by Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI)