

late than never, but that would fail to give proper credit where it is due. The President deserves great praise for his determination to put America's public schools back on track. After three decades of stalled progress, we are turning finally to fact-based scientific solutions so that all of America's children can learn and will learn.

There is a lot more to do. And as with our intelligence reform bill today, this is not the end. This is a start. We are going to continue to have appropriate reforms, strengthening programs that we act on here in this body.

In the next Congress, when it comes to education, we will do more to strengthen our schools and our school systems so every child has that opportunity to learn. As the President has set out, since we have already focused on K-12, we will begin to look at the college level and further at that secondary school level. We are committed to expanding opportunities for every American to acquire the education and skills they need to compete and succeed in an ever expanding and dynamic economy.

Our Founding Fathers, who are cited so frequently and appropriately on this floor, believed deeply that a successful democracy and a viable democracy requires an educated and engaged citizenry. I am confident that by adhering to high standards of achievement and accountability, we will produce an education system worthy of their great hopes.

DARFUR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to comment on one last issue. It is an issue I have brought to the floor many times. The issue I speak of is the issue of the crisis a long way away from Tennessee which I just spoke to, a long way away from Washington, DC where we are tonight, and a long way away from education which I just spoke to and which affects our future so much. I want to speak to an issue that focuses on the continent of Africa and a region called Darfur.

A few weeks ago the Sudanese Government agreed once more to make peace with its southern region. While this is encouraging news, and the international community is hopeful, we must not overlook the crisis that is raging right now, as we speak, in Darfur.

Last night I had the opportunity, with several others, in a very casual environment to be with His Majesty the King of Jordan. And it was interesting. He had met with the President. And this was an informal gathering over dinner last night.

The very first issue he brought up to me was, are we making progress in Darfur, which is a part of Sudan. And my response was: Not as much as we need to.

He said: I agree.

He told me the story of how his country, Jordan, is addressing it in many

ways. And they have been so beneficial throughout the entire Middle East, whether it is in Iraq or all the way across to the country of Africa. He told me the story of a field hospital that his Government and his military have put in that region of Darfur.

Darfur is a region about the size of France which is in this country with Sudan, the western part of the country of Sudan. But just the Darfur region is about the size of France so it is a big area. He told me the story of a hospital he has put there and the trust that hospital is building.

For nearly 2 years now the Sudanese Government has waged war against the people of the Darfur region. Despite two United Nations Security Council resolutions, pressure from the international community and neighboring countries, the Government of Khartoum continues its genocidal campaign. In mid-November Khartoum ostensibly agreed to stop the attacks, but within hours of their agreement, the Sudanese police raided a camp in southern Darfur, destroying homes and driving out civilians. Such attacks still continue. Tens of thousands of innocent victims have died as a result of this government-condoned and, worse than that, government-sponsored violence. Eight million more have been displaced, have been moved out of their homes, have been moved out of their villages, have been transported miles and miles from home, family, and security. Entire villages have been burned to the ground. Women raped, children abducted, executed.

Special U.N. Envoy Jan Pronk warns that Darfur is on the brink of anarchy. We can't stand by as the people of Darfur suffer. We cannot allow another Rwanda. They are calling out to us. They are pleading for our help. The international community has a responsibility, a moral obligation to act, to respond, to act with solution.

In August, I had the opportunity to travel to Africa which I do at least once a year. I usually go to the southern Sudan, but on this trip I chose to go to that western region of Sudan, the Darfur region. But because of difficulties with getting into that country and the inability to get a visa, I started over in the country of Chad which is west of Sudan. And it is at that Chad-Sudanese border that refugees by the thousands are fleeing to get out of the crisis and these vicious attacks in the Darfur region.

What a wonderful opportunity it was for me to see refugee camps which had sprung up to give support to these refugees whose families have been fractured. They didn't know where their spouses were. They had lost their kids. Refugee camps where 5,000, 10,000, 15,000 or 20,000 refugees would come together in miserable conditions, but still people coming together, supported by outside groups.

One of the refugee camps we visited was in Touloum in Chad, and that is several hours northeast from the capital there in N'Djamena.

I was on the ground and met with the refugees and met with the community leaders. What I saw there was fairly appalling. Thousands of refugees are housed in dust-covered tents. Many more live in makeshift shelters of gathered wood and plastic sheeting.

I spoke with a gentleman named Asman Adam Abdallah. In Darfur, he had been a man of prominence, an officer of his tribe and a government official. He was from a small village in the Darfur region. It was a village called Jemeza, just north of the regional capital of El Fasher.

During the attack on his village he became separated from his family. He didn't know if they were still alive. I asked about his family and he said, "I don't know." He didn't know what would happen the next week. If you asked, Are you going to be able to go back to your village, he says, I don't know. I don't know about my wife. I don't know about my children.

He recounted witnessing 15 men of his village summarily murdered. It took him 18 days to travel from that Darfur region across the border into Chad and to reach the refugee camp of Touloum. Sudanese Government planes bombarded Asman and his fellow survivors as they trekked first to Tine, a town right at the border of the Sudan and Chad.

I talked to many refugees, and another one in the Touloum camp described how during a raid on her village, several soldiers grabbed a baby and they wanted to see what gender or sex the baby was. The soldiers began to argue back and forth, with the mother watching, whether to kill the baby boy. She overheard one soldier remarking, "But this child is so young." It appeared that the soldiers were under orders to kill all male children.

I heard another story of a mentally disabled 15-year-old boy who was thrown into a burning house, and these houses are really huts. He was thrown into that house to perish. I heard another story of a paralyzed man being burned alive in his hut. I heard stories of women who were raped in front of their own children.

I asked one refugee in Touloum what it would take for him to go home. He said to me, "I will go if you"—pointing to me—"will go with me and stay with me."

The Janjaweed attacks described to me were so vividly disturbing. You go from one camp to another camp, one little tent village to another one. The stories were exactly the same. You know it is not isolated. It is occurring all over the region. You know it is organized and it is purposeful. The Janjaweed are preceded by aerial attacks by the militia. It is preceded by aircraft flying over; they are government aircraft. In some cases, soldiers in government uniforms participate on the ground and make references to "orders from Khartoum." Survivors tell of racial slurs being hurled at them as the Janjaweed sweep through the villages

and kill the men and boys and raze their homes.

The dictatorship in Khartoum says they are not responsible for the Janjaweed. They tell us officially: We cannot control what goes on with the Janjaweed. To me, that is hard to believe. I believe otherwise. I believe if they were sincere in their efforts to make peace, peace would be at hand. The direct line between the government of Sudan, the Janjaweed, and the raping and pillaging and burning is so direct that I am convinced there has to be some sort of order coming from the top. But if that same order was reversed, coming from the top, the crisis would end. That is what I am so hopeful about. That is why at 9 o'clock on the Senate floor it is important for our voice to be heard. If we don't recognize or shine light on that, if we don't call the international community to act, that order from the government in Khartoum simply will not come, this crisis will not stop, and this genocide will continue.

The regime in Khartoum has cynically concluded that it can survive a moderate amount of diplomatic pressure and that it can continue the genocide. I say cynical because it is wrong. When I say it, I am sure people think it is wrong, but it is still occurring. Therefore, we have to shine more light and put on more pressure, and we need to go not just before the Senate, but we need to have our media across the country focus on what is going on with the genocide in the Sudan and this Darfur region.

The government in Khartoum believes it can ignore what is mostly rhetorical pressure that has been brought to bear by the international community to date. Lip service is being given, but that is just about it. Khartoum believes that the threat of a Chinese veto in the U.N. Security Council will protect it from more serious sanctions. We must prove them wrong. I am convinced we can prove them wrong. It is going to take our collective wisdom, but our collective action.

For nearly 7 years, I have had the opportunity to travel to Sudan and to neighboring countries more in my capacity as a doctor, as medical mission work, than as a Senator. My first visits there were in 1998. I had the opportunity to help and participate with a wonderful group called Well Medical Mission, establishing a hospital in this region called Lui. I have had the opportunity to go back many times to that southern part of Sudan.

I remember in the year of 2000 going into the middle part of Sudan, into a region called the Nuba Mountains, a village called Kuada. We delivered 35 tons of seed and farm tools for about 8,000 families. That was back in 2000. Since then, that area has opened up to relief. We were one of the first relief airplanes in that region. The Nuba Mountains are a wonderful part of the Sudan that has a history rich in tradition of great Nuba wrestlers—glorious

men—really boys—who were powerful, big, strong. When I went there, I heard about the 2,000 years of this history of wrestling. When I went—and we were the first relief efforts in there in 15, 20 years—I found sick people—no wrestlers but thin, emaciated kids, with stunted growth from conditions imposed on them by the government.

I mentioned to others there is another part of the Sudan called Bapong in the oil region, in the Upper West Nile area. There the government was targeting civilians and denying them basic medical needs. Since that time, a hospital has been put in that region. I had the opportunity to go back this past year.

Sudan does need to be a focus. A lot is going on that we can participate in reversing. This fall, the Senate and House unanimously passed resolutions pressing for the immediate suspension of Sudan's membership on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. Isn't it ironic that you have Sudan in this body of the U.N., after everything that I have just said, participating on that Commission on Human Rights? Something is not right. It is hypocritical—even worse than that.

The House and the Senate acted several months ago. All 535 Members agreed that Sudan's membership on the U.N. commission to protect human rights is a travesty. It is a cruel trick. It defies all decency that a nation actively engaged in genocide against its own people could occupy a position of honor and authority, a commission in the United Nations supposedly devoted to human rights.

Mr. President, I do want to applaud the President of the United States and Secretary Colin Powell for their efforts to bring accountability to the Khartoum Government. This administration has shown immense leadership in addressing the crisis in Darfur. In fact, we can even be proud. The United States is providing over 80 percent of all the supplies from around the world going into Darfur and going into Chad in these refugee camps—more than 80 percent.

Since February of 2003, we have provided \$219 million for Sudan. The appropriations bill we just passed provides over \$300 million for Sudan in additional support for the African Union peacekeeping activities. It is going to take Africans to solve this problem, but it is going to take our support and our authority to help them solve that problem.

In September of this year, Secretary Powell came before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and unflinchingly declared the situation in Darfur to be government-sponsored genocide. That showed leadership in the same way this body showed leadership when it, through a resolution, called it genocide.

In October, the President of the United States authorized the use of three C-130 transport planes to convey 3,300 Rwandan and Nigerian peace-

keeping troops into Darfur. Last month, the U.N. Secretary Council held a 2-day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. At that meeting, council members discussed carrot-and-stick approaches to bringing Khartoum into compliance with international human rights standards. U.N. Ambassador Jack Danforth has worked hard to press the U.N. to take concrete action, and I support him in this difficult and critical work.

I am deeply committed to the future of the Sudanese people. Their plight calls out to all freedom-loving nations. As a human being, as a doctor, as a Senator who cherishes life, I believe it is our duty to answer that call.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4569, which is at desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4569) to provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death, a tree disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4569) was read the third time and passed.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH SYNDROME CONTROL ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2575 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2575) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct research, monitoring, management, treatment, and outreach activities relating to sudden oak death syndrome and to convene regular meetings of, or conduct regular consultations with, Federal, State, tribal, and local government officials to provide recommendations on how to carry out those activities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.