

April 17, 2004

Spotlight on Iraq, Genocide in Africa

To the Editor:

Re "Cruel Choices," by Nicholas D. Kristof (column, April 14):

Unless we enter into the situation in Sudan, our administration is a hypocritical one. Our goals in Iraq currently lie in restoring democracy. How can we be so focused on toppling a nation, hostile to us even today, that was relatively stable under its totalitarian regime when there is another nation practicing genocide?

In Sudan, there are the same practices of ethnic cleansing as there were in Rwanda in the early 1990's. Bill Clinton maintains that not entering into the Rwandan conflict earlier was one of the biggest mistakes of his presidency. Should President Bush not take the advice of his predecessor and make a stand to stop the genocide in Sudan?

More important, under United Nations rulings, we cannot allow genocide to occur in any nation. The United States, if it wants to maintain any credibility, must take a strong stand in favor of sending peacekeeping forces to Sudan. If not, we admit that we are a nation that acts only for the benefit of itself.

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON
Brooklyn, April 14, 2004