

ACTION AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	USNW-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	FDRE-01	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	OIC-00	OMB-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	TFBI-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/002W		

-----F69A84 041716Z /38

R 041108Z MAR 04
 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0272
 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
 AMEMBASSY ASMARA
 USEU BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC
 GENEVA IO MISSIONS COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
 NSC WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 SECDEF WASHDC
 USMISSION US UN NEW YORK NY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 KHARTOUM 000224

GENEVA FOR NKYLOH
 NAIROBI FOR KSMITH, BKAUFFELD, MBEERS, SGREEN, AREED
 NSC FOR JDWORKEN
 ROME FOR FODAG
 STATE ALSO PASS USAID/W
 STATE FOR AF/E: DRAAD
 STATE FOR PRM: TSTOLTZFUS
 USAID FOR AFR/EA: SWISECARVER, RNIEC, JSCHNEIDER
 USAID FOR DCHA/DG: WMARSHALL
 USAID FOR DCHA/FFP: SBRADLEY, RWAGNER
 USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA: RWINTER, BGARVELINK, THALMAST-SANCHEZ, JBORNS, DRHOAD, JMARKS,
 USAID FOR DCHA/OTI: LMESERVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PHUM, PREF, EAID, SU
 SUBJECT: SUDAN - DARFUR HUMANITARIAN SITUATION UPDATE 2 FEBRUARY 22 -
 28, 2004

1. SUMMARY: UN AGENCIES AND NGOS CONTINUE TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL

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AREAS OF THE GREAT DARFUR REGION TO CONDUCT HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS. THE MOST IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT IS CLEARLY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN DARFUR. IDPS AND OTHER WAR-AFFECTED GROUPS TELL OF RECURRENT ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR TOWNS AND VILLAGES, ARBITRARY KILLINGS, RAPES, AND LOOTING. THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED MILITIAS IN DARFUR, COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE JINJAWOOD, ACT AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. SEVERAL COMMUNITIES REQUESTED AN END TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN COMMODITIES AS THESE DELIVERIES ONLY INVITE ATTACKS BY THE JINJAWOOD WHO ARE INTENT ON ENRICHING THEMSELVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. COMPLETE, UNHINDERED ACCESS REMAINS ELUSIVE AS THE GOVERNMENT DENIES

PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO AREAS THROUGHOUT GREATER DARFUR. IN SOME CASES, INSECURITY GENERATED BY CLASHES BETWEEN REBELS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES CLOSE DOWN ACCESS TO PARTS OF THE REGION. ALTHOUGH THE CONDITIONS OF MOST IDPS ACCESSED SO FAR HAVE BEEN ASSESSED AS GENERALLY GOOD, AID AGENCIES FEAR THAT CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT WILL INCREASE THEIR VULNERABILITY AND LEAD TO A DETERIORATION IN THEIR SITUATION. RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF RELIEF GOODS TO THE REGION BY INSECURITY ALONG MAJOR ARTERIES LEADING INTO DARFUR AND AROUND THE REGION PLAGUE RELIEF AGENCY LOGISTICIANS. OPERATIONAL CAPACITY IS STILL LOW AS FEW NGOS HAVE THE RESOURCES TO MOUNT LARGE SCALE INTERVENTIONS AT THE MOMENT. WFP ESTIMATES THAT ITS CURRENT PIPELINE CAN SUPPORT 500,000 WAR-AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES FOR ANOTHER SIX WEEKS. UNLESS FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MADE, WFP EXPECTS A RUPTURE IN ITS FOOD AID PIPELINE BY MID-APRIL. END SUMMARY

ACCESS

2. OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD, ACCESS FOR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES IMPROVED IN NORTH AND WEST DARFUR ALTHOUGH MANY AREAS REMAIN BLOCKED BY GOS REFUSAL TO ISSUE TRAVEL PERMITS. INSECURITY ALONG MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES LEADING TO AND WITHIN THE DARFUR REGION CONTINUES TO IMPEDE THE DELIVERY OF RELIEF COMMODITIES TO AID AGENCIES.

3. IN NORTH DARFUR, THE UN IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING ROUTES AS OPEN FOR TRAVEL AS PER ASSESSMENTS BY THE UN FIELD SECURITY OFFICER (FSO): EL FASHER TO KUTUM; EL FASHER TO KEBKABIYA; AND EL FASHER TO MELIT. THE GOS MAINTAINED ITS POSITION PROHIBITING RELIEF GROUPS FROM MOVING ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN EL FASHER AND UMM KEDADA, THEREBY PREVENTING USE OF THIS MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ARTERY FROM EL OBEID FOR THE SHIPMENT OF AID SUPPLIES.

4. IN WEST DARFUR, THE UN REPORTED THE FOLLOWING ROUTES OPEN FOR MOVEMENTS: EL GENEINA TO KOLBUS; EL GENEINA TO KRENK; AND EL

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5. IN SOUTH DARFUR, A UN FSO ARRIVED THIS PAST WEEK AND INSPECTED THE ROAD FROM NYALA TO KASS, DECLARING IT OPEN FOR HUMANITARIAN TRAFFIC. KASS AND SEVERAL VILLAGES IN THE VICINITY OF KASS (LINO, HUSHABA AND KIRWA) WERE CLEARED FOR AID OPERATIONS. TWO VILLAGES WERE DECLARED "NO GO" AREAS DUE TO INSECURITY (KALKUTING AND SHATAYA).

6. THE UN DECLARED THE FOLLOWING ROADS IN GREATER DARFUR TO BE UNSAFE DUE TO INSECURITY: NYALA TO ED DAEIN; NYALA TO EL FASHER; AND EL FASHER TO EL GENEINA.

7. WFP LOADED 2,000 METRIC TONS OF FOOD COMMODITIES LOADED ONTO WAGONS IN BABANUSA WAITING FOR THE RAIL LINE TO OPEN TO NYALA.

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8. UN AGENCIES AND NGOS REPORT THAT GOS MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CONTINUES TO DENY ACCESS TO RELIEF GROUPS FOR AREAS THROUGHOUT DARFUR WHEN PERMITS ARE REQUESTED. MSF-BELGIUM HAS NOT YET BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN DARFUR DESPITE HAVING

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ALL NECESSARY STAFF AND SUPPLIES ON THE GROUND IN KHARTOUM FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW. THE MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS BLOCKED THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO DARFUR FOR UNKNOWN REASONS.

SECURITY

9. UN REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE VILLAGE OF KERENIK (BETWEEN EL GENEINA AND MORNEI) IS INSECURE DUE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF JINJAWEED IN THE AREA. SEVERAL VILLAGES AROUND NYALA HAVE BEEN DECLARED "NO GO" ZONES BUT THE UN FSO DUE TO CONTINUING INSECURITY. THE UN FSO REPORTED INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH DARFUR.
10. NGOS CONTINUE TO COME ACROSS VILLAGES IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BURNED, AND CIVILIAN VEHICLES BEING HELD UP BY ARMED GROUPS ALONG THE ROADS BETWEEN MAJOR TOWNS AND VILLAGES.
11. THE UN FSO REPORTED THAT THE GOS MILITARY FORCES EXHIBIT A NERVOUS DISPOSITION IN THE MAJOR CITIES AND TOWNS. GUNS HAVE BEEN DRAWN AS UN AGENCIES AND NGOS APPROACH MILITARY CHECKPOINTS LEADING TO SOME CLOSE ENCOUNTERS FOR RELIEF PERSONNEL IN NYALA. CURFEWS REMAIN IN EFFECT IN ALL THREE CAPITALS OF DARFUR.
12. THERE ARE MULTIPLE REPORTS OF MILITIAS STEALING THE RELIEF COMMODITIES GIVEN TO IDPS AND OTHER WAR-AFFECTED GROUPS BY UN AGENCIES AND NGOS. SOME COMMUNITIES REQUESTED THAT FOOD, BLANKETS AND SHELTER MATERIALS NOT BE DISTRIBUTED IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE RAIDS BY THE JINJAWEED OR THE GOS MILITARY TO STEAL THESE GOODS.

PROTECTION

13. THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN DARFUR REMAINS THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF AID AGENCIES WORKING IN DARFUR. THE UN REPORTED ON EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES AND ATTACKS AGAINST IDPS IN CAMPS. MOST OF THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE JINJAWEED AS THE PRINCIPAL PERPETRATORS OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS. CASES OF THE LOOTING OF RELIEF COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED TO IDPS BY UN AGENCIES AND NGOS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMMON. IN SOME INSTANCES, IDPS WARNED AID AGENCIES NOT TO DISTRIBUTE AID SUPPLIES AS THE BLANKETS AND FOOD OFTEN INVITE RAIDS ON IDP POPULATIONS BY THE JINJAWEED. GIVEN THE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF LOOTING OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS, WFP IS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING PROGRAMS RATHER THAN DIRECT FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SOME AREAS IN ORDER TO DETER THEFT BY THE JINJAWEED.

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14. ALLEGATIONS OF RAPES PERPETRATED BY GOS MILITARY AND ASSOCIATED MILITIAS AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN DARFUR CONTINUE TO REACH AID AGENCIES. NGOS REPORT THAT WOUNDED CIVILIANS SUFFERING FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS ARRIVE ON A DAILY BASIS INTO THE TOWN OF MORNEI IN WEST DARFUR.

15. COMMUNITIES STILL LIVING IN THEIR VILLAGES HAVE TOLD RELIEF GROUPS THAT THEY FEEL LIKE PRISONERS IN THEIR OWN HOMES DUE TO ABUSES AGAINST THEM BY "ARAB NOMADS". THREATS HAVE BEEN MADE

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RTS CONTINUE TO FLOW IN OF ABDUCTIONS AND ARBITRARY ARRESTS OF CIVILIANS.

NORTH DARFUR

16. RAPID HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS WERE PERFORMED IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNS/VILLAGES OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD: TAWILLA, KEBKABIYA, BIRKA SAYIRA, SARAF OUMRA AND KUTUM.

17. NGOS REPORT THAT IDPS IN KUTUM FROM THE VILLAGE OF FATI BUNDU WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. HOWEVER, IDPS CITE THE LACK OF SECURITY IN FATI BUNDU AS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THEIR RELUCTANCE TO MAKE THE TRIP BACK TO THEIR VILLAGE.

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18. A SIZEABLE FLOW OF IDPS INTO KEBKABIYA CONTINUES. THE UN REPORTED 124 IDPS ARRIVING FROM JEBEL SI RECENTLY. THE INCOMING IDPS STATED THAT FIVE VILLAGES CLOSE TO TAWILLA HAD BEEN BURNT. SOME VILLAGERS HAD FLED INTO NEARBY MOUNTAINS FOR PROTECTION WHILE THEIR HOMES WERE DESTROYED AND THEIR LIVESTOCK LOOTED.

WEST DARFUR

19. RAPID HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING TOWNS/VILLAGES OF WEST DARFUR DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD: MORNEI, KOLBUS, AZBURI, AZERNI AND IDP CAMPS AROUND GENEINA.

20. NGOS REPORT THAT THE FLOW OF IDPS INTO EL GENEINA FROM SURROUNDING AREAS SLOWED DOWN TO A TRICKLE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR INFLUXES INTO EL GENEINA OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEW REPORTS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY OR ASSAULTS AGAINST VILLAGES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. NGOS SPECULATE THAT THOSE IDPS THAT HAVE BEEN COMING TO GENEINA IN THE PAST FORTNIGHT ARE DRAWN TO THE TOWN BY THE AVAILABILITY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. AID AGENCY DISTRIBUTIONS OUTSIDE OF EL GENEINA, MORNEI AND ZALENGI REMAIN INSIGNIFICANT DUE TO INSECURITY AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF AGENCIES WITH OPERATIONAL CAPACITY IN WEST DARFUR. IDPS IN GENEINA ARE SAID TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION FOR THE MOMENT.

21. MSF-FRANCE ANNOUNCED THAT IT MADE EIGHT CLINICAL DIAGNOSES OF MENINGITIS IN MORNEI. FOUR OF THE EIGHT PATIENTS PASSED AWAY SHORTLY THEREAFTER. LAB RESULTS ARE STILL PENDING TO CONFIRM THE INITIAL DIAGNOSIS. MSF-F AND THE MOH BEGAN A MASS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EPIDEMIC IN THE AREA.

22. AID AGENCIES REPORT THAT 50,000 IDPS RESIDE IN MORNEI, THE VAST MAJORITY WITHOUT SHELTER. A WORKING GROUP IN KHARTOUM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE OVERALL SHELTER NEEDS IN GREATER DARFUR AND DIRECT SUPPLIES TO POPULATIONS IN NEED IN MORNEI AS WELL AS OTHER LOCATIONS.

23. NGOS REPORT THAT PRICES IN EL GENEINA ARE MOVING DOWN INDICATING PERHAPS THAT THE SUPPLY OF COMMERCIAL GOODS INTO THE TOWN IMPROVED OVER RECENT MONTHS.

SOUTH DARFUR

24. UN AGENCIES AND NGOS PERFORMED JOINT RAPID HUMANITARIAN

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ASSESSMENTS IN THE VILLAGE OF KARKOLE AND IDP CAMPS AROUND KAS (KAILAK AND ABURUMO). LIKE HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS IN OTHER

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BETTER THAN EXPECTED. HOWEVER THE ASSESSMENT TEAMS STRESSED THAT THE CONDITION OF THE IDPS CAN BE EXPECTED TO QUICKLY DETERIORATE UNLESS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THE VIOLENCE IS HALTED AND PROTECTION ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED.

25. IDPS ENCOUNTERED DURING RECENT ASSESSMENT MISSIONS AROUND KASS INSISTED THAT ENSURING THEIR PROTECTION SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. ATTACKS FROM THE JINJAWEEED ARE A CONTINUAL THREAT. THE UN-LED RAPID ASSESSMENT TEAMS INDICATED THAT ASIDE FROM PROTECTION, HEALTH CARE IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR IDPS.

26. THE LACK OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS CONSTRICTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN SOUTH DARFUR MUCH LIKE IN THE OTHER AREAS OF GREATER DARFUR.

COORDINATION

27. THE GOVERNMENT IN EL FASHER HAS ESTABLISHED A RELIEF COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN NORTH DARFUR. THIS COMMITTEE COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF MILITARY AND JINJAWEEED AND NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM

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THE IDPS. THE UN AND NGOS IN EL FASHER PROPOSED THE CREATION OF AN ALTERNATE RELIEF COMMITTEE THAT WILL INCLUDE IDPS AND EXCLUDE THE MILITARY AND JINJAWEEED

28. THE UN IS WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND ITS HUMANITARIAN AID COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHAT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE GOS FOR WAR-AFFECTED POPULATIONS IN DARFUR. THE GOS CLAIMS TO BE SHIPPING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO DARFUR, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO RELIABLE CONFIRMATION AS TO THE ARRIVAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF THESE COMMODITIES TO NEEDY POPULATIONS IN GREATER DARFUR.

MISCELLANEOUS

29. THE AVAILABILITY OF FUEL FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE GREATER DARFUR REGION REMAINS A CONCERN. AID AGENCIES REQUIRE FUEL FOR AIRCRAFT, VEHICLES, TRUCKS AND GENERATORS. THE LACK OF FUEL COULD EVENTUALLY HAMPER HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN THE REGION. FUEL SHORTAGES IN THE CAPITALS OF DARFUR ALREADY LIMIT THE AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICITY IN THE HOSPITALS. THE UN JOINT LOGISTICS CENTER (UNJLC) RECENTLY SET UP AN OFFICE IN KHARTOUM TO SUPPORT UN AGENCIES AND NGOS IN RELATION TO THE MOVEMENT OF IDPS AND OTHER RETURNEES IN SUDAN. THE UN'S RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR IN SUDAN TASKED THE UNJLC TO ASSESS THE FUEL SITUATION IN DARFUR AND DEVELOP PLANS TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF FUEL TO THE REGION FOR HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS.

30. WFP BELIEVES THAT ITS EXISTING CAPACITY TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO TARGETED POPULATIONS IN DARFUR IS INADEQUATE. IT THEREFORE SENT OUT REQUESTS TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL NGOS ALREADY OPERATIONAL IN THE REGION TO ASSIST IN THE MOVEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO BENEFICIARIES IN DARFUR. SAVE THE CHILDREN - UK (SC-UK) RESPONDED BY OFFERING TO TAKE OVER DISTRIBUTIONS IN PARTS OF NORTH DARFUR.

31. WFP STATED THAT ITS CURRENT PIPELINE FOR DARFUR WILL LAST UNTIL MID-APRIL ASSUMING THAT IT CAN ACCESS 500,000 TARGETED BENEFICIARIES WITH A FULL RATION. IT CURRENTLY HAS NO ADDITIONAL PLEDGES FOR DARFUR AND NO FURTHER ARRIVALS OF FOOD ARE ANTICIPATED AT THE MOMENT. WFP NOTED THAT IT IS SEEKING CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DONORS AS LOCAL PURCHASES COULD BE EASILY

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BETTER THAN EXPECTED. HOWEVER THE ASSESSMENT TEAMS STRESSED THAT THE CONDITION OF THE IDPS CAN BE EXPECTED TO QUICKLY DETERIORATE UNLESS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

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DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THE VIOLENCE IS HALTED AND PROTECTION ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED.

25. IDPS ENCOUNTERED DURING RECENT ASSESSMENT MISSIONS AROUND KASS INSISTED THAT ENSURING THEIR PROTECTION SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. ATTACKS FROM THE JINJAWEEED ARE A CONTINUAL THREAT. THE UN-LED RAPID ASSESSMENT TEAMS INDICATED THAT ASIDE FROM PROTECTION, HEALTH CARE IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR IDPS.

26. THE LACK OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS CONSTRICTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN SOUTH DARFUR MUCH LIKE IN THE OTHER AREAS OF GREATER DARFUR.

COORDINATION

27. THE GOVERNMENT IN EL FASHER HAS ESTABLISHED A RELIEF COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IN NORTH DARFUR. THIS COMMITTEE COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF MILITARY AND JINJAWEEED AND NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE IDPS. THE UN AND NGOS IN EL FASHER PROPOSED THE CREATION OF AN ALTERNATE RELIEF COMMITTEE THAT WILL INCLUDE IDPS AND EXCLUDE THE MILITARY AND JINJAWEEED

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ARVEST.

32. AN OFFICE SUPPORT MODULE INCLUDING VEHICLES, COMPUTERS, AND COMMUNICATIONS GEAR REACHED KHARTOUM ON FEBRUARY 25. THE SUPPORT TEAM AND EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY WAIT IN KHARTOUM FOR PERMITS THAT WILL ALLOW THEIR TRAVEL TO DARFUR TO SET UP THE EQUIPMENT THAT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE UN'S CAPACITY IN TERMS OF OPERATIONS AND COORDINATION IN DARFUR.

33. CARE AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SEND ASSESSMENT TEAMS TO DARFUR IN THE COMING WEEKS TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE WHETHER THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS. THE UN IS ACTIVELY WORKING THROUGH NGO COORDINATING PARTNERS (ICVA AND INTERACTION) TO DRAW MORE RELIEF AGENCIES TO DARFUR TO ASSIST WITH THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS.

34. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ACCESS AND THE CAPACITY OF RELIEF AGENCIES TO FUNNEL ASSISTANCE TO IDPS AND WAR-AFFECTED POPULATIONS HAVE SEEN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PAST WEEK, THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE ALL HUMANITARIAN NEEDS CAN BE MET. HOWEVER, THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF AID AGENCIES IN DARFUR REMAINS THE PROTECTION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. FEAR OF ATTACKS AND VIOLENCE CONSTITUTE A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE FOR MANY RESIDENTS OF DARFUR. NO SHORTAGE EXISTS OF ACCOUNTS BY THE PEOPLE OF DARFUR OF BURNT VILLAGES, CAPRICIOUS KILLINGS, RAPES AND THE WHOLESALE LOOTING OF LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ASSETS. IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOS DOES NOT SHARE THE CONCERN OF THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY IN SUDAN OVER THE PLIGHT OF THE POPULATION OF DARFUR, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTION ISSUES. FURTHER PRESSURE MUST BE PUT UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE LIVES, WELFARE

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AND PROPERTY OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES CAUGHT UP IN THE
VIOLENT FRENZY THAT HAS GRIPPED DARFUR. HOWEVER, WE QUESTION
WHETHER THE GOS IS CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THEIR RENEGADE
MILITIA-"JINJAWEEED". END COMMENT.

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