

ORIGIN AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	USNW-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TEST-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SAS-00	/001R					

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SOURCE: CBLEXCLS.009654

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP, OPRC, PREL, US, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA PRESS GUIDANCE APRIL 7, 2004

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

SUDAN: TALKS MOVING AHEAD

APRIL 7, 2004

KEY POINTS

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNYDER MET TODAY IN NAIVASHA KENYA WITH THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AT THE SUDAN PEACE TALKS: VICE PRESIDENT TAHA AND SUDAN PEOPLES LIBERATION MOVEMENT CHAIRMAN GARANG, AS WELL AS GENERAL SUMBEIYWO, WHO IS MEDIATING THE TALKS ON BEHALF OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT.

THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY PUSHED THE PARTIES TO FINALIZE THE AGREEMENT ON THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE TWO SIDES ASSURED SNYDER THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR DAYS. GENERAL SUMBEIYWO HAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY RMELONE
 DATE/CASE ID: 09 AUG 2006 200502212

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EXTENDED THE TALKS UNTIL APRIL 11.

THE TWO SIDES INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL ON FOUR OF THE SIX MAJOR POWER ISSUES (SECURITY ORGANS, THE PRESIDENCY, ABYEI, AND PERCENTAGES). THEY ARE INTENSIVELY DISCUSSING THE ISSUE OF THE CAPITAL AND THE TWO CONFLICT AREAS OF SOUTHERN BLUE NILE AND NUBA MOUNTAINS.

SNYDER EMPHASIZED TO BOTH SIDES OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY MEDIATION EFFORT AND FOR EFFORTS THAT THE GROUP IS MAKING TO ENCOURAGE RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES.

THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALSO INDICATED TO BOTH SIDES THAT THE UNITED STATE WOULD REMAIN PRESENT AT THE TALKS FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS GIVEN THE ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY THE TWO SIDES.

WHILE WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE PEACE EXPRESSED BY BOTH SIDES IT IS CLEAR THAT SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REMAIN AND THAT THE PARTIES WILL NEED TO SHOW GOOD FAITH IN ORDER TO REACH COMPROMISES ON THE REMAINING ISSUES.

SNYDER UNDERScoreD THE UNITED STATE'S INTEREST TO ACHIEVE A PEACE ACCORD, BUT ALSO SAID THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO REMAIN ENGAGED INDEFINITELY.

SNYDER EXPRESSED TO SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT TAHA OUR GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN DARFUR AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT COOPERATING IN THE DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN CHAD TO NEGOTIATE A HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE THAT WOULD INCLUDE OUTSIDE MONITORING. SNYDER EMPHASIZED THE URGENCY OF THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS TO STOP THE ATTACKS AND ATROCITIES BEING PERPETRATED BY THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED MILITIAS IN DARFUR.

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

SUDAN: DARFUR DEVELOPS
APRIL 7, 2004

KEY POINTS

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE GRAVELY CONCERNED

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WITH THE DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN DARFUR. WE ARE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE TALKS IN N'DJAMENA, CHAD BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND THE ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE NOT MADE MORE PROGRESS.

HOWEVER, WE HEARD LAST NIGHT THAT THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION GROUPS FINALLY BEGAN DIRECT TALKS FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING AN HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE, WITH OUTSIDE MONITORING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TALKS ARE CONTINUING.

DURING HIS VISIT TO LAKE NAIVASHSA, KENYA TODAY, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNYDER DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT TAHA. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF DARFUR ISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO COOPERATE IN THE CHAD TALKS AND TO ACHIEVE A HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE.

THE VICE PRESIDENT ASSURED THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN WILL COOPERATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN CHAD.

THE UNITED STATES IS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO STOP THE ATTACKS AND ATROCITIES BEING COMMITTED BY GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED MILITIAS IN DARFUR. THESE STEPS INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR LAST FRIDAY'S BRIEFING IN UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL'S PRESS STATEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A STRONG ITEM 9 RESOLUTION AT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE FOR A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR.

WE HAVE SEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S COMMENTS AND FULLY SHARE HIS CONCERNS. THE KEY ISSUE NOW IS STOPPING THE VIOLENCE IN DARFUR. WE HOPE THAT OTHERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL SUPPORT OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE.

WE INTEND TO KEEP THE SITUATION IN DARFUR UNDER INTENSE REVIEW AND INTEND TO USE ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS AND TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND. BASED ON MULTIPLE SOURCES ON INFORMATION IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED MILITIAS ARE CONTINUING TO ATTACK CIVILIANS AND COMMIT ATROCITIES. GIVEN THIS VERY GRAVE SITUATION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE

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THE FULLEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION
ON THE GROUND.

IF ASKED- IS THIS GENOCIDE?

IT APPEARS THAT WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IS ETHNIC
CLEANSING. BY THAT WE MEAN WHAT IS OCCURRING HAS
INVOLVED ATTACKS AND ATROCITIES AGAINST AFRICAN
CIVILIANS BY THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED ARAB MILITIAS.
WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATTACKS AND ATROCITIES ARE
APPARENTLY WIDE SPREAD AND APPEAR IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY
TO BE ETHNICALLY BASED. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN MUST TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO
STOP THE ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS.

IF ASKED ABOUT SYG'S COMMENT ON MILITARY ACTION:

UNDERSTAND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS SPEAKING OF A
CONTINUUM OF STEPS, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE MILITARY ACTION
AS AN EXTREME MEASURE. WE UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN. THE
FOCUS NOW IS ON ROBUST DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO BRING A
CEASEFIRE AND STOP THE BLOODSHED. WE BELIEVE THESE EFFORTS
CAN SUCCEED. WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO SUPPORT
THIS EFFORT.

IF ASKED ABOUT NUMBER OF PERSONS KILLED, DISPLACED, ETC:

USAID IS REPORTING THAT 750,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN
DISPLACED AND AN ADDITIONAL 110,000 HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE
IN CHAD AS A RESULT OF THE CONFLICT.

WE CANNOT SPECULATE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS CAUSED BY
THE CONFLICT.

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