

ORIGIN AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-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
	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00
	USIE-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
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TAGS: OIIP, OPRC, PREL, US, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA PRESS GUIDANCE APRIL 9, 2004

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

APRIL 8, 2004

SUDAN: MEASURES TAKEN TO ADDRESS DARFUR

KEY POINTS

AFTER A SLOW START LAST WEEK, THE PARTIES IN N'DJAMENA HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS OVER THE LAST 48 HOURS TOWARDS A HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN DARFUR. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED EARLIER TODAY. WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE FINAL VERSION YET, BUT EXPECT TO RECEIVE IT LATER TODAY.

ONCE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED, ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS MILITIAS INVOLVED, WILL NEED TO FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE AND ENSURING UNLIMITED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TO CIVILIAN

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POPULATIONS IN DARFUR. THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WATCHING VERY CLOSELY TO SEE THAT ACTION ON THE GROUND IS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT.

THIS MORNING SUDANESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. MUSTAFA OSMAN ISMAIL, LED A MISSION TO DARFUR. THE MISSION INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, AND THE UNITED NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES URGES FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL TO VISIT THE MOST RAVAGED PARTS OF THE REGION.

WHILE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS OF THE LAST 24 HOURS, THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO KEEP THE SITUATION IN DARFUR UNDER INTENSE REVIEW AND INTENDS 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.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN TO STOP THE ATTACKS AND ATROCITIES BEING COMMITTED BY THE JINGAWAIT AND OTHER 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 ALSO NOTE STATEMENTS MADE BY MANY AFRICAN LEADERS, INCLUDING THE HEAD OF THE AU, AT THE RWANDA COMMEMORATION EVENTS THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE AU MUST TAKE A MORE IMMEDIATE AND ASSERTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING THESE CRISES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. WE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THEM IN THAT EFFORT.

IF ASKED- HOW MUCH AID HAS THE US GIVEN TO DARFUR?

SINCE OCTOBER 2003, WE HAVE PROVIDED \$40 MILLION TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM FOR DARFUR. THIS INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 43,700 METRIC TONS OF MIXED FOOD COMMODITIES, OF WHICH 25,000 METRIC TONS IS IN SUDAN AND 18,700 METRIC TONS IS IN ROUTE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED \$1.5 MILLION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF), MEDAIR AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED \$6.8 MILLION FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IN EASTERN CHAD. THIS INCLUDES 7,040 METRIC TONS OF MIXED COMITIES ON THE GROUND.

WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED \$5 MILLION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES FOR ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES, AND \$400,000 TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES.

IF ASKED - IS THIS GENOCIDE?

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 THE FULLEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

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.

BACKGROUND:

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND DARFUR REBELS HAVE AGREED TODAY ON THE TERMS OF A HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE IN DARFUR. FINAL CHANGES AND TRANSLATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE TO THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BEFORE SIGNATURE BY THE PARTIES. THE NEGOTIATORS IN CHAD DO NOT WANT ANY MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL THE AGREEMENT IS

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SIGNED, WE HOPE IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. THE AGREEMENT WILL CALL FOR A 45-DAY CEASEFIRE THAT WOULD BE INTERNATIONALLY MONITORED, AND IMPROVED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TO ALL AREAS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 9 2004
2004/

STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER, SPOKESMAN

SIGNING OF THE DARFUR HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE

THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE SIGNED IN N'DJAMENA, CHAD APRIL 8. THIS AGREEMENT IS A CRUCIAL, FIRST STEP TOWARD ENDING ATROCITIES AND REVERSING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN DARFUR. THE UNITED STATES URGES THE PARTIES TO COOPERATE TO IMPLEMENT THE CEASEFIRE IMMEDIATELY AND TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID.

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A CEASEFIRE LASTING FORTY-FIVE DAYS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN, THE SUDAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY AND THE SUDAN JUSTICE AND EQUALITY MOVEMENT. IT IS AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE AND CONTAINS PROVISIONS ALLOWING FOR EXTERNAL MONITORS AND UNIMPEDED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS. IN THE AGREEMENT, ALL PARTIES AGREED TO "NEUTRALIZE THE ARMED MILITIAS." THIS REFERS TO THE GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED JINGAWAIT MILITIAS THAT HAVE BEEN BRUTALIZING THE LOCAL POPULATION. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN THAT WE EXPECT IT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AND ATROCITIES BEING PERPETRATED BY THE JINGAWAIT MILITIAS.

THE UNITED STATES WAS INTENSIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN NDJAMENA, AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE. WE INTEND TO KEEP THE SITUATION IN DARFUR UNDER INTENSE REVIEW. WE WILL USE ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS AND WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN PRECISE INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND THROUGHOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS. WE WILL WORK WITH THE PARTIES AND WILL MAINTAIN PRESSURE TO ENSURE THAT THE HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THAT THERE IS UNRESTRICTED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TO ALL NEEDY POPULATIONS, AND THAT THE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

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ARE QUICKLY PUT INTO PLACE.

THE UNITED STATES THANKS THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD FOR GENEROUSLY HOSTING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WELCOMES THE HELPFUL ROLE PLAYED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE AFRICAN UNION, AND THE UNITED NATIONS, WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED.

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

APRIL 9, 2004

SUDAN: CEASEFIRE ACHIEVED

KEY POINTS

WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FINAL VERSION OF THE TEXT OF THE DARFUR HUMANITARIAN CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A CEASEFIRE SPECIFICALLY TO RESPOND TO THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF DARFUR'S WAR-AFFECTED POPULATION. THE CEASEFIRE LASTS 45-DAYS AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSIONS. THIS POINT IS IMPORTANT, AS IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY TO THE NEEDED LEVELS TO BEGIN ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN DARFUR IN JUST 45 DAYS.

THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES A CEASEFIRE COMMISSION TO MONITOR THE AGREEMENT THAT WILL INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED THAT THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT ESTABLISH A TIMELINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE COMMISSION. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD, THE AFRICAN UNION, AND OUR EUROPEAN UNION COUNTERPARTS TO HOLD THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AS ACTIVE OBSERVERS. WE ORGANIZED FOR THE TWO OPPOSITION GROUPS TO TRAVEL TO N'DJAMENA AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH ALL PARTIES TO MOVE TO ACHIEVE THE AGREEMENT.

THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO SUPPORT ALL THE PARTIES IN THEIR PLANS TO HOLD SEPARATE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS.

THE SITUATION IN DARFUR HAS NOT IMPROVED DURING THE LAST WEEK. WE INTEND TO KEEP INTENSELY ENGAGED ON DARFUR AND TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND.

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WE CURRENTLY HAVE ONE OFFICIAL IN DARFUR TRAVELING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS SENDING A RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TO ASSESS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND INITIATE EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS.

AF PRESS GUIDANCE

APRIL 9, 2004

SUDAN: PEACE TALKS IN KENYA

KEY POINTS

THE PARTIES REMAIN INTENSIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE INTENTION TO RESOLVE THE FINAL OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

BOTH SIDES MUST TAKE THOSE FINAL, VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISIONS NECESSARY TO BRING THIS PROCESS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

THERE CAN BE NO AGREEMENT WITHOUT DIFFICULT COMPROMISES; WE STRONGLY URGE THE PARTIES TO SEEK REAL, WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR REQUIREMENTS.

WE ARE REITERATING TO THE PARTIES OUR FIRM VIEW THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE HOLDING THE PARTIES TO THEIR COMMITMENT TO FINISH THE NEGOTIATIONS BY APRIL 11. OUR REMAINING OBSERVER AT LAKE NAIVASHA WILL DEPART BY THEN.

AS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR, WE INTEND TO USE THE NEXT SUDAN PEACE ACT DETERMINATION, DUE APRIL 21, TO MAKE CLEAR WHICH PARTY (OR BOTH) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT.

THAT DETERMINATION WILL AFFECT OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PARTIES.

BACKGROUND:

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE THEY KNOW THE OUTLINES OF A FINAL SET OF COMPROMISES ON THE VERY FEW OUTSTANDING ISSUES. WE ARE PRESSING THEM HARD TO REACH A DIFFICULT COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE OF SHARIA IN THE CAPITAL. ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPALS ARE DIRECTLY ENGAGED, THEY NEED TO ADOPT A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY.

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