

British prepare to ignite genocidal war in Sudan

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

On Jan. 31, the last day of their rotating chairmanship of the United Nations Security Council, the British rammed through a resolution condemning Sudan, for allegedly providing support and sanctuary to terrorists. The resolution called for "cooperation" on the part of the Sudanese government, in pursuing suspected terrorists, and requested a report from the U.N. secretary general within 60 days. The key clause in the resolution, not written, but understood by all concerned, is that if Sudan does not come up with three "suspected terrorists" within the two-month period, that august international body, which has slapped embargos on Iraq, Libya, and others, will impose trade sanctions against Khartoum.

On the same day, the U.S. government made known, through a State Department release, its decision "to suspend its diplomatic presence in Sudan." All American personnel at the U.S. embassy in Khartoum were to be removed, "due to continuing concern for [their] safety." The release said that the United States, having noted the presence of terrorists in Sudan, had urged the government to take measures to curb their activity and guarantee security of U.S. diplomats. The statement claimed that the decision represented "neither a break in diplomatic relations with the Government of Sudan nor a change in U.S. policy toward Sudan."

The two moves, taken together, signal that the longstanding British imperial design to destabilize Sudan and the entire region, has moved into the operational phase. London knows exactly what kind of inferno this will unleash. Whether or not the queen's little helpers in the State Department are aware of the grave consequences of their actions, Washington is stumbling headlong into one of the most catastrophic foreign policy blunders of its history. Unless the policy is reversed, and the drive for sanctions against Sudan is stopped, the Horn

of Africa will go up in flames, and with it, any illusions that America could command respect anywhere in the developing sector.

The imposition of sanctions against Sudan, would ignite chaos, economic and social disruption, and genocidal war. Trade with the country's nine land neighbors, Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, Zaire, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, as well as with Saudi Arabia across the Red Sea, would be disrupted, causing immediate suffering for populations dependent on such trade and trade routes for their subsistence. Sanctions would halt supplies of oil as well as military goods to Sudan, thus paralyzing the central government's efforts to contain the armed rebellion in the south.

The sanctions policy is designed to beef up the rebel onslaught militarily, and prepare conditions for an overthrow of the Khartoum government. British authorship of this policy is a matter of history. It was the British who, shortly before conceding independence in 1956, ignited the rebellion among southern tribes which developed into protracted war over decades. Through their Colonial Office, re-baptized the Overseas Development Office, the British have organized political, military, logistical, and humanitarian support for the rebel faction of John Garang and his Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). Baroness Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, has personally run Ugandan dictator Yoweri Museveni, whose troops have been engaged in an attempted invasion of Sudan since November.

Two-pronged military attack

Over the past three months, Eritrea and Ethiopia, both under direct British supervision, have been recruited to the war effort as well. The German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine*

Zeitung reported on Jan. 29, that rebel forces, poised to launch an offensive in the dry season, “had amassed forces at the city of Juba, where the Khartoum government troops are said to have stationed 25,000 soldiers, in expectation of the attack.” The rebels “are receiving, predominantly from the North of Uganda, new weapons, spare parts, and medical equipment,” the *Zeitung* continued. Earlier, the London *Daily Telegraph* had trumpeted the news that a new rebel offensive would start, this time with “support from the outside.” This includes air shipments of materiel into the war zone, courtesy of Ethiopian Airlines, which flies weapons into Entebbe airport, which is closed down to civilian traffic “six to ten times a week,” according to the *Zeitung*, in order to host the military supply flights. Sudanese forces have seized military equipment coming from Egypt, as well.

In addition to escalating pressures on the southern front, the British have launched incursions, through their Ethiopian proxies, in the east. Between Dec. 29 and Jan. 11, Ethiopian forces reportedly penetrated Basalab, Lukdi, and Hamarayh. These incursions were repelled by the Sudanese, who inflicted casualties and destroyed tanks, but the Ethiopians have since continued shelling Sudanese towns and garrisons from their own territory. Furthermore, they have recently moved heavy artillery into Geisan and Kurmuk, locations in eastern Sudan not far from the rebel positions in the south. Although this virtual second front has been opened in the east, it is expected that the southern offensive will remain the major thrust of the rebels. Statements made by Ugandan dictator Museveni in the last days of January, accusing Khartoum of fomenting Ugandan rebellions, have been read as signals, that Uganda is preparing a major attack there, together with Garang et al.

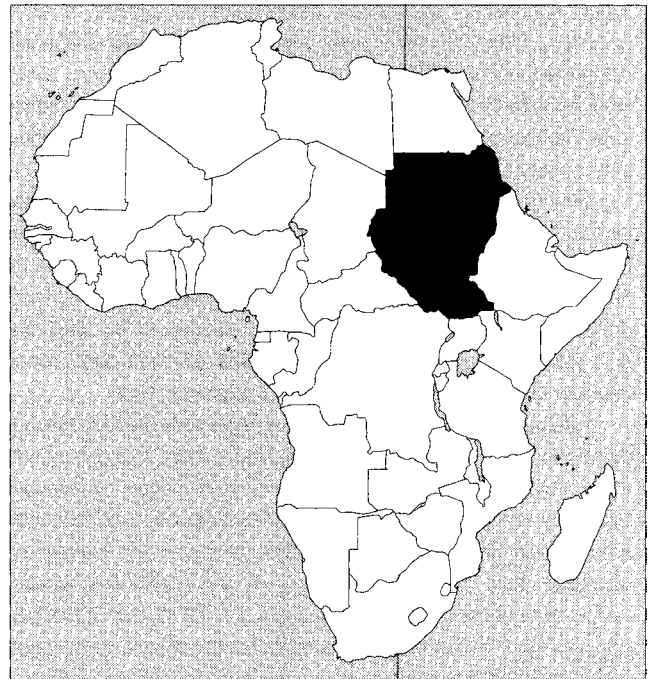
Ultimately, the two-pronged military attack is designed to shatter Sudan’s national unity, creating a series of mini-states not only in the south, but also in the east. On the drawing boards of London’s geopolitical institutes, is a plan to create an artificial entity there, which would unite tribal groups of Tigrean stock, in Eritrea, part of Ethiopia, and the strip of Sudan along the Red Sea coast. Such a mini-state would effectively cut Sudan off from access to the sea.

British strategy is to rev up the military assault from the south, continuing pin-prick incursions as diversionary moves on the eastern front, and then move for the kill in the capital itself. Herein lies the significance of the State Department decision to pull diplomatic personnel out. According to one Russian strategist, with experience in the Arab and Islamic world, the obvious reason is that “we can expect a great uprising, with killing and bloodshed in the Sudanese capital, it can happen.”

Behind the ‘terrorism’ charge

The countdown to war in the Horn of Africa is the final phase of a process that the British have orchestrated over several years. To set the stage, it was necessary to paint Sudan

FIGURE 1
Sudan in the African continent



as the enemy. Specifically, Sudan must be presented as the center of “Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.” Since the founding in 1991 of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, its leader, Dr. Hassan Turabi, has been depicted as the “Lenin of international Islamic terrorism.” Sudanese connections to terrorism then were alleged, as in the case of the World Trade Center bombing. But it was in June 1995 that the Sudanese were set up in earnest. On June 26, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was assaulted by a terrorist hit team, while driving from the airport to a conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. *EIR* reported at the time, Lyndon LaRouche’s assessment that the hit had been a deliberate miss, a “fake attack,” designed to whip Mubarak into line, and to lay the blame on the Sudanese. Mubarak returned immediately to Cairo, instead of attending the African summit, during which reconciliation talks between Sudan and its neighbors were to take place. He openly accused Sudan of responsibility for the attempt. Mubarak simultaneously exacerbated tensions in Halaib, Sudanese territory claimed by Egypt, while joint British-American-Egyptian maneuvers in the Red Sea simulated a blockade against Sudan. The Egyptians also changed legislation regarding Sudanese entry to that country, introducing visa and sojourn permit requirements. This was a precautionary move, to prevent an expected flood of refugees from Sudan, in the event the country were put under sanctions.

Parallel to the assassination attempt against Mubarak, was an initiative of the Christian Solidarity International (CSI), a British intelligence front headed by Baroness Caroline Cox, Lord Avebury, and other operatives in ethnic conflict schemes. The CSI sponsored a conference of the Sudanese opposition in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, in June 1995, which issued a resolution calling for extending the war in the south to the whole country, and overthrowing the Khartoum government by force.

One of the participants in the conference was John Eibner, of the Institute of Christian Minorities in the Islamic World, a subsidiary of CSI. Eibner is the person who wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* in 1992, that Sudan should be given “self-determination,” by which he meant, it should be split into five states. He pushed this option at the Asmara conference, convened to “give the initiative a ‘Sudanese’ face.”

Ethiopian investigators into the Mubarak murder attempt concluded at the time, that all assailants were Egyptians, and even sent Egyptian intelligence officers home, on charges that they were trying to bias the investigations and bribe the Ethiopians. But then, under British pressure, the Ethiopians changed their line. At a meeting of the conflict resolution committee of the OAU, held on Sept. 11, 1995, the Ethiopians charged that Sudan was responsible for the assassination plot, and that it was harboring a suspect whom it refused to release. The meeting had been especially so arranged, to obtain the desired result; Sudan had been neither invited nor informed of the charges.

Conference at the British House of Lords

A second meeting of the Sudanese opposition was organized from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, again by Baroness Cox and the CSI. This time, the conference was convoked in nothing less than the House of Lords in London! Thus, Cox and her ilk were openly acknowledging their authorship, sponsorship, and direction of the drive to destroy the government of a sovereign nation. The resolution adopted at the conference endorsed the Asmara conference resolution, underwriting that meeting’s call for the violent overthrow of the government of Sudan, and, as a prerequisite to this end, the conference pushed for the unification of the disparate rebel forces. Point 6 of the resolution reads: “In the struggle for the overthrow of the NIF [National Islamic Front] regime and the struggle for the restoration of democracy and rule of law, the opposition forces need unity and solidarity. The Conference resolves that the unity of all the political groups opposed to the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF) regime is of paramount importance and measures should be undertaken to promote this unity.”

The House of Lords conference explicitly raised the proposal of sanctions against Sudan. It called on the “Friends of IGADD” to organize it. IGADD is the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development, a group of Sudan’s

neighbors who have been engaged previously in serious attempts to mediate a negotiated solution to the war in southern Sudan. Through arm-twisting and bribery, the IGADD has become a vehicle for Britain’s imperialist campaign to fuel the war against the Sudanese central government. What the House of Lords conference did, according to the final resolution, was “to request, as a matter of urgency, the U.N. Security Council to condemn the Government of Sudan as a terrorist regime and for its sponsorship of terrorist actions, within and outside Sudan, with particular reference to:

“—the attempted assassination of President Mubarak of Egypt;

“—its support of the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda, the Eritrean Islamic Jihad organization and other terrorist organizations in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and other countries of the region;

“—its threats to invade Uganda.

“This conference urges the U.N. Security Council to initiate an arms and oil embargo to prevent the escalation of domestic and international terrorist and military activities by the Government of Sudan.”

The marching orders delivered by Baroness Cox in the House of Lords to her minions in the Sudanese opposition and the regional puppet regimes, were immediately followed. Although on Dec. 18, during another meeting of the OAU Conflict Organ, it was agreed that Sudan would be given time to work with Ethiopia, to search for the suspected terrorists alleged to be in hiding in Sudan, just days later, on Dec. 21, the Ethiopian government took the matter to the U.N. Security Council. The case against Sudan alleged that it was refusing cooperation, was behind the assassination attempt, and was seeking to coerce Ethiopia to engage in a coverup! As the Sudanese mission testified, the reason Sudan was the prime suspect, was that the assassination had been “very sophisticated.” The allegations that Sudan were trying to engage Ethiopian authorities in a coverup, derived from Khartoum’s request for cooperation in the investigation.

British push for U.N. sanctions

The British, who were chairing the U.N. Security Council beginning Jan. 1, depended on Ethiopia to bring forward the charges. It had to appear, as if it were a regional power, an African government, that lodged the complaint. For this reason, the whole charade in the OAU’s conflict resolution group had been orchestrated. To make sure Addis Abeba would comply, London greased a few palms, by organizing a “donors’ conference” for “aid” to Ethiopia.

In the U.N. itself, the Brits held sway with little or no difficulty. The Germans, hankering for a seat among the club of the Security Council permanent members, would pose no objections. Abruptly reversing Bonn’s former, relatively balanced attitude toward Sudan, German President Roman Herzog undertook a tour of the anti-Sudan coalition countries in

Africa, just as the U.N. resolution was being typed up. Herzog traveled first to Uganda, where he went out of his way to praise the country as a "haven of stability" and "pearl of Africa." "In your governmental term, Uganda has developed into a haven of stability in this crisis-shaken region of Africa," Herzog said in his Jan. 23 address, listing the announced general elections and new constitution of Uganda as well as Museveni's decision to "host several hundred thousand refugees," as signs that Uganda is on the right path. Herzog then called on Museveni to support Bonn's efforts to "engage for a solution to the big problems of the region, predominantly in Rwanda and Burundi." (Herzog omitted any mention of Ugandan responsibility for the genocide in Rwanda and Burundi.)

According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* report on his visit, "Federal President Herzog told this newspaper in response to a question whether, after this tour, Bonn was considering supporting the countries neighboring the fundamentalist Khartoum regime not just with friendly words, but also with financial aid or military equipment: If there were such promises, I would not be allowed to talk about them." And, "from among circles of the [German] delegation," the daily continued, "it was leaked that not only President Herzog, but also Foreign Minister [Klaus] Kinkel during his visit to Addis Abeba last week 'made concrete promises in connection with the development [the war] in southern Sudan.'" Thus, not only are the Germans supporting the rebels and their regional partners financially, but, it appears, also logistically. The *Zeitung* noted that crews of two German Transall air transports, flying under the cover of humanitarian aid, have been conducting surveillance operations on the hostilities there, through observations from 2,000 meters altitude.

To make one hundred percent sure that Bonn would go along with the British campaign for U.N. sanctions, British intelligence pulled a slick trick when Herzog was to visit Ethiopia and Eritrea, after Uganda. As the *Zeitung* reported, "security precautions for Herzog in Eritrea were drastically upgraded. Thus, on short notice, in addition to other vehicles an armoured German limousine was flown in from Germany to the capital Asmara." The reason? "Security officials feared that a terrorist commando, egged on by the Sudanese fundamentalists, could exploit the visit to organize an assault against the State visit."

How could Germany object to a U.N. resolution condemning Sudan, if its President were threatened by assassination? France, which had curried favor with the Sudanese government for the last years, showed its true colors, by lining up with Britain fully. Curiously, during the debate on Sudanese sponsorship of terrorism, there was no reference to the clamorous development in 1995, when Sudan apprehended the notorious Carlos, and, unprompted, extradited him to France. As for the remaining members of the U.N. "Perm Five," Russia was initially thought to be leaning in the direction of a

stalling tactic, to postpone debate, and ultimately kill it, in the interest of protecting its considerable economic and trade deals with Sudan. But, while the U.N. Security Council was meeting in the last days of January, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was in Washington, looking for money. As a Russian strategist commented, "Do you think we would stop this resolution, after receiving that \$9 billion?" He was referring to the reported deal reached between Chernomyrdin and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, for an IMF standby credit. The man went on: "If the vote had taken place a month earlier, or a month later, it would be different, but we are not going to challenge the Americans now."

The State Department action makes clear that Washington is blindly following the British lead. Not only politically, but, if the *Zeitung* report is reliable, also militarily. The paper reported that "60 American soldiers of the 'Special Forces' are training, as instructors and advisers, the rebels in southern Sudan for the expected battles. At present, the American soldiers are said to be stationed near Juba."

An ultimatum

The resolution passed on Jan. 31, constitutes an ultimatum to Khartoum: Hand over three terrorists within two months or we will impose sanctions, escalate the war, and overthrow your government. Based on past performance, it is to be expected that even if Sudan were to find the persons generically described as suspects, the British would not be placated. As the Permanent Representative of Sudan commented on Jan. 29, the draft resolution constituted "a punitive action." "It is not the pumice stone softening the hard skin of the Sudan," he said. "It is actually a thorny sharp instrument cutting hard and deep on the flesh of the people of the Sudan."

Britain is committed to sanctions as a trigger for chaos, and ethnic and tribal war, throughout the Horn of Africa, a genocidal inferno on a vast scale, which would make the Rwanda and Burundi tragedies pale in comparison.

Such an immense tragedy is being planned, yet the Western mass media have had virtually nothing to say. One of the most striking features of the entire British-led setup against Sudan, including the U.N. debate, is that it has been carried out in virtual silence. The other striking feature is the timing: The countdown to sanctions coincides exactly with the election campaign period in Sudan. For the first time since 1955, Sudan is planning to hold general, direct elections for Parliament and the Presidency, in March. (Next week, *EIR* will publish an interview on the elections with A. Moneim Z. Nahas, the head of the General Elections Authority in Sudan and a retired deputy chief justice.) Rebel leader John Garang, or opposition figures, like Sadiq al Mahdi, could run for office, if they wished. But it appears that the British have decided that such elections, which would enact the transition to civilian rule, should not take place. In their stead, sanctions, anarchy, insurrection, and genocide.