

## Improving cooperation

To advance scientific research and technological progress, it is necessary to deepen our understanding of the objective world and to scientifically utilize, transform, and protect nature so as to create better working and living conditions for mankind. I sincerely hope that the scientific and technological departments of our two countries will cooperate more closely and work for greater results to the benefit of our two peoples and the people of the world as a whole.

Both China and Russia are influential countries in the world. Now our bilateral friendly ties and cooperation have been developing satisfactorily, which is in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and is also conducive to world peace and development. During the visit, President Yeltsin and I have charted a course for the cross-century development of China-Russia relations. We share the view that in the coming century, China and Russia should continue to observe the principles of non-alignment, non-confrontation, and non-directing against any third country. The two countries should treat each other as equals, trust each other, conduct mutually beneficial cooperation, and work together to meet all challenges that mankind faces in the struggle for survival and development, and promote world peace, stability, and prosperity.

The history of China-Russia relations tells us that our two big countries, as close neighbors, are destined to live in amity with each other, understand and respect each other, support each other's stability and development, understand each other's conditions, and accommodate each other's concerns. China wishes to be Russia's good neighbor, good partner, and good friend forever, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in the interest of common prosperity. This is the most fundamental and most important connotation of the strategic partnership of cooperation oriented toward the 21st century that our two countries are to develop.

China firmly pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and has always stood for settlement of disputes between countries through dialogue and friendly consultation. A developed and progressive China will not pose a threat to anyone. Even when China becomes prosperous and powerful in the future, it will never seek hegemony. This is the basic state policy we will continue to follow unswervingly.

Friends, the Chinese and Russian peoples are great peoples. They are both hardworking, talented, and creative. Both countries have a good tradition of giving priority to education and science. I am sure that in the next century our two peoples will make greater contributions to the development of world science and technology.

I sincerely wish all of you, scientists and friends present here, fresh achievements in the lofty cause of science and technology!

I wish you good health and a happy life!

Thank you.

## Relief agencies call for peace in Sudan

by Linda de Hoyos

International relief agencies issued a call on Oct. 26 for the United Nations to take immediate action to bring about a peace that would end the 15-year-long war in southern Sudan. "Famine, death, and despair are becoming constant spectres, haunting the Sudan. Peace is the only hope for progress and to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe," the agencies stated.

Joining in the appeal to the Security Council were Doctors Without Borders International, Care International, Save the Children Fund, and Oxfam.

The call comes at the point that southern Sudan, afflicted by a war between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army of John Garang and the Sudan government in Khartoum, now threatens the annihilation of the people of southern Sudan. The relief agencies warn that "Sudanese society is now so weakened, that if the conflict continues, further humanitarian disasters are inevitable."

This assessment is made at the point that already, 4 million southern Sudanese are displaced, 3 million of whom are living in camps in Khartoum; 1.5 million are conservatively estimated to have died in the war over the last 15 years; and another 1.5 million are currently starving, completely dependent upon the United Nation's Operation Lifeline food relief program, whose deliveries are often disrupted by the war.

A cease-fire was agreed upon in Bahr-el Ghazal province, where millions were faced with imminent death by starvation this summer, to facilitate Operation Lifeline delivery. The three-month cease-fire was renewed in October, but will run out again in January. In an October briefing document, Doctors Without Borders emphasizes: "If short-term and long-term steps are not taken to extend the cease-fire and eventually end the conflict in Sudan, the modalities of humanitarian assistance may soon become a moot discussion. The Sudanese population cannot afford another month, let alone another decade of conflict, and conflict-induced famine."

### Specific steps sought

The relief agencies call upon the international community, organized in the United Nations Security Council, to:

“• Recognize their responsibilities for the support of the development of peace in the Sudan;

“• Collaborate to build sufficient international consensus to generate a forceful and positive lobby for peace—as there is no possible military solution;

“• Support to a local solution to the conflict (fully incorporating all members of Sudanese society and the regional powers/states);

“• Commit to supporting the implementation of a peace agreement;

“• Commit to longer-term assistance to ensure equitable re-construction of the basis of Sudanese society, in order to increase the motivation of local leaders to seek peace.”

### ‘No-go’ from the United States

Despite the unimaginable suffering of the Sudanese people, peace is not the policy coming from either the United States or Great Britain, two powers on the UN Permanent Security Council. Britain was the only country, other than Uganda, to heartily endorse the Aug. 20 air attack carried out by the United States against the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant.

U.S. charges that the plant was a disguised chemical weapons production plant are widely viewed now as false. But, the attack resulted in a disruption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On Nov. 5, President Bill Clinton further upheld trade sanctions against Sudan, continuing to refer to Sudan as a “national security threat.”

Meanwhile, on the ground, as *EIR* has documented, Roger Winter of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, reputedly the chief mentor of Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Rice, is actively seeking ways to keep the war going, through channeling of support and supplies to Garang’s Sudanese People’s Liberation Army in collaboration with the mercenary army of Yoweri Museveni’s Uganda.

Winter is not acting as a “lone ranger.” Recent efforts by U.S. Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa Anthony Lake to mediate the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia are reported to have as a purpose a re-cobbling of the coalition against Sudan, in which Eritrea and Ethiopia combine to attack Sudan from the east, a front far closer to Khartoum than the southern front of attack from Uganda and Garang.

This extended effort to militarily bring down the Khartoum government—there were major military invasions in September 1995, January 1997, and September 1998—has met only with failure.

In the meantime, Doctors Without Borders notes: “There is virtually no infrastructure left in southern Sudan: paved roads can be counted on two hands, few schools exist, hospitals and clinics cannot offer even minimal health care. The mortality and health consequences of the war are staggering.”

### Diseases return

The organization further notes that “*due to insecurity and displacement, fatal diseases which were once controllable now threaten the existence of entire communities*” (emphasis in original).

**Kala Azar:** “Visceral Leishmaniasis has been recorded as endemic in Sudan since 1904. The war created conditions in which all vector-control programming ceased, and the decimation of cattle populations (due to absence of grazing) led to a regrowth of the acacia forests in Upper Nile. The regrowth of the forests led to a massive increase in the sand fly population, which carries the disease. The war also led to increased movement of people carrying the disease to other areas, including Western Upper Nile. The terrible famines of the 1980s created a weakened population—never before exposed to the disease and therefore with lower resistance. All of the above factors created an outbreak of catastrophic proportions. Surveys by MSF [Doctors Without Borders] estimated that some communities lost up to 50% of their population.”

**Tuberculosis:** “Initial surveys [in the 1950s] indicated the prevalence of TB was 50 out of every 100,000 people. . . . Currently MSF faces large numbers of TB patients seeking treatment in all of the locations where we work. Due to the level of security required for the lengthy TB treatment (6-7 months), there is currently no viable treatment option for the insecure settings of many areas of South Sudan.”

**Guinea worm:** “Given a reasonable level of health infrastructure, the control of guinea worm is relatively simple. However, in south Sudan, there is a massive concentration of guinea worm cases due to the war and lack of access to health services. In 1994, Sudan suffered one-third of the world’s guinea worm cases. Today, over 80% of the world’s guinea worm cases are in Sudan.”

**Trypanosomiasis** (sleeping sickness): “Parts of South Sudan, particularly areas of Western Equatoria, have long been known to be endemic for sleeping sickness. Untreated sleeping sickness is fatal. A sleeping sickness prevalence rate of less than 2% of the screened population is considered to be an epidemic. In the past, the prevalence of the disease was limited by vector-control programs and a Sleeping Sickness Control Program which provided treatment. These programs ended in 1990, due to the spread of the conflict. In 1988, mass screening of the entire population in the villages at that time revealed cases of sleeping sickness in only 50% of the villages screened. In 1997, cases of sleeping sickness were detected in 100% of the villages screened (OLS).”

Thus, the war has brought starvation, disease, and displacement to the people of southern Sudan—not to mention death from killing and abductions of children and men as “recruitment tactics.”

Since the war is not being prosecuted in the interests of the people of southern Sudan, the question has to be raised: Who *is* benefitting and how?