

John Garang belongs to the group of former radical guerrilla leaders which have over the last 18 years been brought to power as the new leaders of Africa. Most prominently, Presidents Museveni of Uganda, Kagame of Rwanda, and Afewerki of Eritrea have changed from being radical Marxists to becoming the most fanatical supporters of the free-market ideology of the IMF and World Bank. They have become one version of the puppets for the geopolitical powershift in Africa that the Anglo-American powers have organized in their favor.

Sudan had to be brought to submission for two reasons: one, oil; and second, the water of the Nile. Until now, U.S. firms were excluded from the lucrative oil deals available in Sudan. Total reserves are estimated at 2 billion barrels. The lead actors in Sudan's oil industry are the China National Petroleum Corporation, Petronas from Malaysia, Talisman Energy from Canada, Gulf Petroleum Corporation from Qatar, Ludin Oil from Sweden and the French Total Fina Elf. On July 25, a new investment package of \$1.7 billion was signed for the exploration of new oilfields in the South and the construction of a new pipeline to the Red Sea. This time, British and Russian firms were also part of the deal. After the implementation of the Kenya peace treaty, those lucrative oil deals would also be open to U.S. firms.

But strategically even more important may be the question of water from the Nile. In Khartoum the Blue and the White Nile join together to constitute the lifeline for Egypt. During recent months, Anglo-American pressure led to Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania questioning the old Nile treaties with Egypt. Garang in power in Sudan would line up with this group and be ready to be used by the Anglo-American powers to further blackmail Egypt.

The Sudanese government was warned in January of 2001 that the Bush Administration would not treat them better than the former Clinton Administration from Washington. Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon La Rouché was the keynote speaker at a seminar organized by the Schiller Institute, *EIR*, and Sudan's Institute for Strategic Studies in Khartoum, under the title "Peace through Development along the Nile River." There, LaRouché warned his Sudanese audience of the geopolitical intentions of the new Bush Administration. But some of the Sudanese participants were still so angry at Bill Clinton's Sudan policy, that they insisted things would work out with the new Bush team. Tragically, LaRouché's warnings are now fully confirmed through the events in Darfur.

The crisis in Darfur confirms again the cynical nature of the West's Africa policy. First, for decades the global financial institutions, led by the IMF and World Bank, blocked development for Sudan, Chad, and other countries in the region. Thus social and political conflicts became unavoidable. These conflicts were then heated up by the unhindered and targeted flow of weapons. Western powers, through the news media, define the conflicts as ethnic or

religious, and manipulate them for their own geopolitical purposes. If these conflicts go out of control, the humanitarian crisis is used as a pretext for declaring countries as "failed states," and pressure is exerted to accomplish "regime change." According to this model, the West, and predominantly the Anglo-American powers (with France not challenging them), bears most of the responsibility for Africa's wars of the last 15 years in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, West Africa and South Sudan.

The escalating crisis in Darfur is only the latest example of this. Factions of the Khartoum elite may use this crisis for their own power games. But the Bashir government did not start the conflict. Rather, it tried to implement the treaty which was signed by Foreign Minister Ismail and the UN's General Secretary Kofi Annan on July 3, to disarm the *Janjawid* militia, and to improve the humanitarian access to the refugee camps. The government itself has asked for help from the African Union.

The accusation of genocide does not apply to the Sudan government. Instead, this must be directed against those in the West who are engaged in the geopolitical manipulation of Africa policy, as happened 14 years ago in Rwanda, and later in the Congo.

Commentary

Sudanese 'Peace' Deal Could Spell Disaster

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The peace agreement made between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the SPLA/M of John Garang, could signal the beginning of a process leading to the destruction of Sudan as an Arab-African nation-state. A detailed briefing on the dangers inherent in the accord, which is scheduled to be signed by the end of the Summer, if nothing intervenes to change it, was given to *EIR* by the leading Sudan specialist in Cairo University, at the Institute of African Research and Studies.

In the view of Prof. Ibrahim A. Nasr El Din, head of the Department of Economics and Political Science, who spoke with this author during a June visit to Cairo, there are four possible scenarios which could unfold in Sudan.

1. Sudan could go the way of Somalia. This is real and could be imminent. In Sudan there are two opposing forces, the GoS, which is Islamist, and the Garang rebels, who are

for a secular state. What is lacking is a “third force” with a national agenda, not from the West, the East, the South or the North, but representing a unified Sudan. Neither Sadiq al-Mahdi of the Umma Party, nor al-Mirghani of the Democratic Unionist Party, represents this. They have both lost their credibility, and can play no national role. Unless an agenda for unity is established, through the emergence of a “third force,” there could be civil war on an even broader scale, and disintegration, as in Somalia. This would endanger not only Egypt, but also Chad, the Central African Republic, Uganda, and other neighboring countries, through the increase in weapons trade and refugee flows.

2. Southern Sudan could separate from the North, and become independent, not only prior to a referendum after the six-year interim period, as established in the peace agreement, but even earlier, perhaps after three years, for example. Implementing this scenario entails several difficulties, however: There is conflict within southern Sudan among the leading tribes of the Dinkas, Shilluk, and Nuer. Thus, here is no social credibility for a stable southern Sudanese state. Secondly, Garang’s SPLA includes many militias from areas outside southern Sudan, to wit, the Nuba Mountains, Abi, and Belja (in eastern Sudan). Garang has no intention of relinquishing them, which would be expected, were he to concentrate on ruling southern Sudan. Thirdly, the neighboring states, for example, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, also have ethnic tribal groups which are calling for independence (Oromo, Aferi, Bani Shanka, etc.), and which, were southern Sudan to become independent, would move for secession from their respective nations. Another consideration is that the African Union (the successor organization to the Organization of African Unity) has explicitly rejected the division of any African state.

The secession of southern Sudan is not necessarily in the interests of the United States, which has been behind the peace agreement, although it is often mooted to be Washington’s aim. In reality, U.S. policy aims at controlling *all* of Sudan, and transforming it into an “African” (not Arab or Arab-African) state, aligned with the group of “African” states in east Africa, like Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, and Somalia. U.S. oil interests also know that Sudanese oil resources are not restricted to the South.

Although it is often stated that a separate southern Sudan would jeopardize the Nile water flows to the north, i.e., Egypt, this is not entirely the case, since it would require a massive project in the South to establish such control. Furthermore, the real control over the Nile lies in the North (see below).

A final consideration regarding the possible independence of southern Sudan, is that, in such an event, northern Sudan could enter into a union with Egypt, rendering that state a regional superpower, which is not in the interests of the geopolitical crowd eyeing Sudan. For all these reasons, it is considered unlikely that the South would separate: Such

a division could come about, however, if Sudanese President al-Bashir were to declare a separation of the North, out of fear that Garang could take over all of Sudan.

3. Garang takes over all of Sudan. This is the most dangerous scenario, and is real. The peace agreement has given him many tools which he can use to exert control over the entire nation. He has total control over the South, with his government, army, and central bank there. The national army is to withdraw from the South. The mission of the Sudanese national army is defined as defending borders, but not interfering in disturbances. This means the national army is *de facto* forbidden to defend the national unity against rebellions. Garang, in addition to being chief negotiator for the South, vis-à-vis the GoS, is also the negotiator for eastern Sudan and western Sudan (Dafur), the southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains. Garang has also been granted 50% of national oil revenues. He has a veto power over the central government’s policy decisions for the South.

The danger is that Garang, with his foreign backers, may attempt to take over the entire country. On the ground, there is talk of an estimated 1-2 million Sudanese “refugees” from the South, who are in the North, including in and around Khartoum. It is believed that these include large numbers of southern Sudanese SPLA combatants, who have infiltrated the North, as “refugees,” and would be primed to enter into a campaign to “liberate” Khartoum from the “Arabs.”

Were this scenario to become reality, it would represent a very direct threat to the national interests of Egypt, because the Nile River can be controlled from the North; in fact, the Blue Nile and the White Nile join in Khartoum, the capital. Politically, Garang’s alliance with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Ethiopian Prime Minister Melis Zenawi, et al., is also to be seen as a threat to Egypt, since these leaders are anti-Arab. Were Garang to take over in Khartoum, there could be catastrophic effects in Egypt. There is already talk, among these geopolitical circles, of a division between northern and southern Egypt, or the creation of a “Christian” state made up of the western Sahara and southern Egypt.

4. The last scenario is what Egyptian political forces are seeking: the consolidation of Sudan as a unified, African-Arab nation. It should be noted, that in the peace agreements, there is no mention of the identity of Sudan as a nation. Egyptian political forces are seeking ways to ensure a national unity of Sudan, where all citizens are equal and where both the Arab and African heritage of Sudan are preserved, in a national identity.

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