

What Sudan Needs Is Economic Development, Not Foreign Troops

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Countering the brainwashing of the U.S. population, by almost daily articles, editorials, and full-page advertisements attacking the government of Sudan for genocide in Darfur, Ambassador John Ukec Lueth, the new Sudanese Ambassador to Washington, D.C., provides *EIR* readers with a unique interview, which offers an understanding of a far more complex situation than the mindless soundbytes and slogans one hears every day.

Take note that Ambassador Ukec is from the South, a longtime member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA), which fought the government in Khartoum for 20 long, bloody years, before joining with the National Congress Party to form the unity government in 2005.

While Ambassador Ukec cautions the West against a robust deployment of 21,500 UN troops into Sudan, which would be sure to provoke an escalation of fighting, he advocates a policy of economic development for Darfur and the South.

Continent-Wide Destabilization

Belligerent voices from the United States are advocating an aerial assault on Sudan. Susan Rice, who served President Clinton poorly as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is calling upon President Bush and the Democratic-controlled Congress to initiate a new military adventure in the Horn of Africa, this time against Sudan. Speaking at the School for International Studies (SAIS) in Washington on Feb. 21, Rice said that we must give Sudan an ultimatum: Either stop the killing in Darfur and allow entry of a UN force of 21,500 soldiers, under UN Resolution 1706, or Congress should authorize the President to use force. According to Rice, this would be accomplished by implementing a "no-fly zone" from air bases in neighboring Chad, bombing Sudanese airfields, and bombing the Port Sudan oil export complex. Rice envisions that after a U.S. and NATO bombing campaign, Sudan would be softened up enough to succumb to accepting UN troops, with U.S. and NATO backing, using U.S. forces stationed in Djibouti.

These insane actions proposed by Rice could lead to the destabilization of the entire Horn of Africa, by instigating the

spread of asymmetric warfare. The United States has already militarily intervened into the Somalian conflict, with covert support for the Ethiopian invasion, and then, under the cover of Bush's so-called war on terrorism, gunship attacks in Somalia.

Involving Chad in supporting a direct U.S. attack on Sudan would only enflame the tensions between those countries. An attack on Sudan, which is a Muslim nation like Somalia, Eritrea, and large portions of Ethiopia, would be the extension of the Bernard Lewis/Samuel Huntington "Clash of Civilizations" policy that Dick Cheney et al. are implementing in Southwest Asia.

Although there are no signs yet of major support for this adventurous intervention by the Congress or the Bush Administration, it should be obvious that the Darfur crisis is being used by some among the Anglo-Dutch financier oligarchy as part of a larger geopolitical strategy that could ignite new asymmetric wars that would affect several large East African nations, including Egypt, Chad, and the Central African Republic.

Urgent Needs for Infrastructure

To ensure the stability of Sudan, one must not only reject these dangerous policies, but take up the concerns raised by Ambassador Ukec. To ensure the success of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which is central to Sudan's stability, large-scale economic infrastructure development is paramount to improve the living conditions for the millions of people in the South. In the desolate region of Darfur, there is no single problem more important than the shortage of water. Without the procurement of potable water for farmers and herdsman, this region will always be a breeding ground for feuding tribal militias.

Only through long-term investments in vital categories of infrastructure to produce the necessary amounts of potable water, and electrical power, and to provide for roads and rail transportation, schools, and an adequate number of health-care facilities, from local clinics to large hospital complexes, will we, in the words of Ambassador Ukec, help to end the marginalization of various regions, and "reorganize the country called Sudan."