

## Next Phase of Assault Already Underway

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Jan. 17—With the voting in the Jan. 9-15 referendum in Southern Sudan, to decide on whether or not to secede from the nation of Sudan, now concluded, there is a moment of relative calm, in which decisions for the future of Sudan will be contemplated.

However, before all votes had even been cast, much less counted, the next phase of the assault on the nation's sovereignty was already in progress. As Hussein Askary makes clear in the following interview, one cannot understand what is happening in Sudan today, without historical knowledge of the role of British colonialism, during its rule in the 19th and 20th centuries. The root cause of Sudan's problems is the intent of the British financial empire to break up the nation.

The fragmentation of Sudan into multiple competing states, using manipulation of so-called tribal-religious distinctions, is the centuries-long British geopolitical strategy for not only Sudan, but all of Africa. (See "Africa Is Not a British Zoo," *EIR*, Jan. 7, 2011.)

Already, the opposition parties in Northern Sudan are calling for President Omar al-Bashir to be given the "Tunisia treatment." A newly formed coalition, calling itself the National Consensus Forces, consisting of the Umma Party, the Popular Congress Party (PCP), and the Communist Party, is leading the charge to overthrow the government in Khartoum, and destabilize Sudan and the Horn of Africa. Yasir Arman, head of the northern branch of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the very same party that runs the government of the South, and advocated separation, echoed similar threats against Khartoum, declaring, "there will be a confrontation to be sure," if there is not a new constitution and government in the North.

### 'Blood in the Streets'

Hassan al-Turabi, a Muslim Brotherhood follower, and leader of the PCP, threatened that there would be blood in the streets and a coup like that of 1985, when

President Jaffar Nimeiri was removed from office, if Bashir does not dissolve the government. An advocate of the "permanent war-permanent revolution" policy of Alexander Helphand (Parvus) and Leon Trotsky, Turabi threatened, "There will be a lot of bloodshed. The whole country is armed. These people don't demonstrate, they fight."

There is no reason to assume that Turabi has the support to carry out such threats, but austerity measures announced last week by the government, including reducing subsidies for petroleum, and raising prices of basic commodities, can create an environment, which can be used to spur such agitation. The collapsing world economy and the splitting-up of Sudan have led to worsened economic conditions in the country.

While U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, praised Bashir for his trip to Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, before the voting began, with promises of economic cooperation between the North and the South, others in the U.S., are using the opportunity of the referendum to attack Khartoum, and stoke the flames for the ouster of President Bashir.

### Some Want Bashir Out

Andrew Natsios, a former U.S. envoy to Sudan, who has been involved in the country for decades, and has extensive contacts there, said Bashir could be out of power in six months. Natsios questions whether Bashir will have the authority to negotiate for the North on vitally important, but still unresolved issues, in the final six months of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement set to end on July 9, 2011.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.), the newly appointed Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released a statement on Jan. 8, the day before the historic vote, frothing at the mouth against the government of Sudan: "The recent assaults in Darfur and the decision by the Sudanese regime to walk away from the talks in Doha should serve as a stark reminder of the nature of this regime. The regime in Khartoum has proven time and again that it will do anything to maintain its trip on power, even the perpetration of genocide" [sic].

Askary's interview provides crucial insights, not only into the cause of the crisis in Sudan, but an alternate pathway of economic development, for that nation, and the continent as a whole.