

British war against Sudan threatens holocaust in East Africa

by Linda de Hoyos

London's plans to hurl the nation of Sudan into bloody chaos and war are proceeding, according to multiple reports. Despite a bid by the United States to initiate a peace process between Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army of John Garang and Garang's sponsor, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, war plans against Sudan are in their final stages of preparation.

The political umbrella for the war against Sudan is the National Democratic Alliance, a conglomerate of Sudanese opposition groups cobbled together by Baroness Caroline Cox, leader of Christian Solidarity International and deputy speaker of the British House of Lords.

Given the backing for Museveni et al. by the British Privy Council to the British monarchy, the United States is the only force capable of averting this war, by escalating diplomacy to force a peace process for the region.

If an invasion of Sudan occurs and is not quickly repelled, it threatens to hurl the entire region of East Africa into total chaos. The war preparations are being made precisely at the point that Museveni—London's premier warlord in the region—has waged siege against Kenya in an effort to bring down the government of President Daniel arap Moi.

In both Sudan and Kenya, there is no national institution capable of forming a stable government. In the case of Sudan, there are rumors that Garang himself would be made President of Sudan, a ludicrous proposition that would ensure a continued and far more bloody civil war in Sudan than the war that has already devastated southern Sudan since 1983. Furthermore, the disintegration of Sudan poses an immediate security threat to Egypt.

In Kenya, various sections of the Kenyan opposition to Moi, such as Raila Odinga, pledge their allegiance to Museveni of Uganda, but as the campaign against Moi has escalated since June—with the backing of the International Monetary Fund's cut-off of funds to Kenya—the opposition has been fracturing into smaller and smaller groups. Museveni, according to multiple source reports, has waged a long campaign of penetration of the Kenyan body politic. Many of these splits are along ethnic lines. The penetrated and fractured opposition to Moi offers nothing to Kenya but a promise of chaos and violence.

Meanwhile, in Uganda itself, Museveni's dictatorship has fostered a proliferation of armed organizations, which are running insurgencies in nearly every area of the country.

In combination with the continuing wars in Somalia, the escalation of military action against Sudan and the continued campaign directed from Kampala against Kenya, threaten to throw the entire quadrant of eastern Africa into a holocaust of bloody wars run by gangs of warlords—the extension of the "Somalia model" to all of Africa.

It will further consolidate the British Commonwealth marcherlord forces grouped around Museveni, including Rwanda, Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Laurent Kabila's

FIGURE 1
Africa's northeast quadrant



Congo—making it nearly impossible to stop the spread of this force into southern and western Africa.

December the target

British foreign ministry officials and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army of Garang now point to December as their target date for the overthrow of the government of President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan.

The date centers around military plans in the final stages of preparation in Uganda for the creation of a back-up force for the SPLA, composed of troops from Eritrea, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo of Kabila, and the Ugandan Popular Defense Forces. The plans for the offensive have been leaked by the British newsletter *Africa Confidential*, the American *Newsweek* magazine in its Aug. 11 issue, and the Aug. 14 *Foreign Report* of the London *Economist*, published by *Jane's* Information Group. Reports of forces being grouped for a September-October renewed invasion of Sudan have also appeared in the Arab press.

According to the *Foreign Report*, citing the Ugandan and Rwandan invasion of Zaire in 1996-97, which succeeded in bringing Kabila to power in Kinshasa, the next target is Sudan—as *EIR* had predicted in June. “Museveni and [Rwandan Defense Minister Paul] Kagame now have another adventure in mind, to help John Garang and his Sudanese People's Liberation Army to defeat Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government and set up a breakaway state in the mainly Christian and animist south,” *Foreign Report* said.

Figures given for the regional force being organized in Uganda and Eritrea for the onslaught against Sudan range from 15,000 to 45,000 troops. The invasion will target the key southern cities of Juba and Wau, but SPLA spokesmen have been quoted as saying that the military campaign will take Garang all the way to Khartoum.

According to Human Rights Watch report of Aug. 28, the SPLA is “seeking to obtain” from South Africa “anti-aircraft weapons to use in the siege of Juba.” Sudan's air power was the major obstacle to Uganda's previous invasions of Sudan, in October 1995 and March 1997.

There is also evidence that Israeli intelligence, operating on behalf of the British Commonwealth, is involved in aiding the invasion plans against Sudan. At the end of August, according to Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia, Usman al-Sayyid, an Israeli intelligence chief visited camps of the Sudanese opposition inside Sudan along the Eritrean border, and the Israeli intelligence operative held a meeting in Asmara, Eritrea, with leaders of the British-cobbled National Democratic Alliance. Israel has long-standing ties to Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, and played a key role in arming Eritrean forces for the January 1997 invasion of Sudan from the east. It is believed that Israel is preparing Eritrean troops for a bid to cut the highway in Sudan between Khartoum and Port Sudan on the Red Sea—in keeping with Israeli plans to have complete control of the Red Sea coasts through sponsored

surrogates. Earlier in August, an Israeli intelligence chief, Rani Baghum, visited areas controlled by the SPLA in Sudan.

Reports of Israel's direct involvement on the ground cohere with source reports in the United States that the Zionist lobby, which backs the peace-derailing actions of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is the major lobbying force in Washington on behalf of British warlord Museveni.

Stymied peace efforts

The military preparations for war against Sudan are the reason why Garang has so far refused all bids to enter into negotiations with the Sudanese government—despite pressure from the United States since the April 21 signing of peace accords by Khartoum and six other rebel factions in southern Sudan.

In the past month, the venue of peace talks has been moved to South Africa, where President Nelson Mandela is presiding. On Sept. 2, Garang traveled to Pretoria only to announce that he would not join Sudan's President al-Bashir at the negotiating table, as he had indicated.

The April 21 accords granted freedom of religion, a federalist system for states, a redivision of national resources to rapidly improve economic conditions in devastated southern Sudan, and a referendum in the south in four years on the issue of southern secession from Sudan. Since then, Sudan has also acknowledged the principles of the Intergovernment Authority on Drought and Development (IGAAD) as the starting point for negotiations—which adds the stipulation that the government in Khartoum must be secular.

This is the fourth time Garang has sabotaged a serious peace effort. During the late spring, he was to meet with Riak Machar, former rebel leader of the SSIM who is now working with the government, but refused. Then, in the context of the summit of IGAAD, he was to meet President Bashir, but did not show up. At the IGAAD meeting, it was decided that Kenyan President Moi, rotating chairman of the group, would convoke a meeting between President Bashir and Garang as soon as possible. Kenya set Aug. 18 as the date, but Garang did not appear.

The Clinton administration has encouraged all these efforts for a negotiated peace, and reports are that U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Tim Carney will soon return to Khartoum, or at least that the embassy will establish an “efficient presence” there, after its absence since summer 1995. Despite this diplomacy, the deployment of 100 Green Berets from Fort Bragg to Uganda, to train a handpicked section of the Ugandan Army, heightens perceptions that the U.S., not the British, are behind the war.

Thus, as the military momentum for war against Sudan continues to gather, with the backing of the British Privy Council, far more strenuous and focussed efforts will be required on the part of the Clinton administration, if war and the disintegration of the entire region, at the hands of Britain's marcherlords, is to be stopped.