

head of the Council for Peace, Mohamed al Khalifa; National Security Adviser Dr. Obed Mahdi, and others. The delegation also includes two former rebel leaders who have signed the peace treaty with the government, and are now functioning as leaders in the political structures in the south: Arok Thon Arok, and Dr. Riak Machar. There are representatives of all the IGAD states, and the United States was also expected to attend with the status of an observer.

The SPLA is represented by a six-man team, which does not include any members of the "political opposition" parties of Cox's National Democratic Alliance, much to their chagrin.

Although no reports are expected to be released until the talks conclude, Ali al-Haj Mohamad expressed optimism in talking to reporters. "Sudan wants to negotiate peace," he said. "We do not want to fight, but if we are compelled to, we are going to fight." He stressed the importance of this meeting, as different from others years ago with the SPLA, because the government has in the meantime signed a peace treaty with other rebel factions, whose clauses should satisfy the demands of Garang. "This is important because this is the first time in the history of the conflict between North and South, and the first time in the history of the Sudan, that there is a concrete agreement," he said. "I know it [the peace treaty] didn't include the SPLA," he went on. "That's why we are going to Nairobi. But I know that agreement has actually addressed all the issues which were raised by the SPLA and which we are going to discuss. . . . If they want a united Sudan, that is fine; if they want a separation, there is a referendum; if they want

self-determination, it is there in the agreement. So, we are asking this question — what do they want?"

"We have got a model now for power-sharing," he said. "The federal system is a formula for power-sharing, and we have got our own suggestions for that." He said, if the other side rejected these suggestions, "they should tell us their suggestions."

Less than a week after the talks had gotten off the ground, the news was released in Washington, that sanctions would be imposed. At about the same time, Garang's delegation in Nairobi made known that it wanted to change the agenda of the talks. The demands put forward by them, according to unconfirmed reports in the Arabic press, were that a two-state confederation and a multi-party democracy, with the participation of Cox's sectarian parties, should be set up. The transition period to a referendum in the south, would be cut down to two years. And most important, the SPLA delegates called for redrawing the map of the south, enlarging it considerably, by including in it, the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile province. Posing such demands, is tantamount to exploding the peace talks. Furthermore, the demand to include the Blue Nile province, means claiming control over the Nile — precisely what would destabilize Egypt immediately.

How this turnabout occurred is not yet known. But what is clear, is that the ambiguity in Washington's position, as perceived by the interlocutors in the peace talks, can only complicate the process, and encourage Garang's forces to balk at peace.

## Cox, the CSI, and British intelligence vs. Sudan

It is no coincidence that, just days prior to the convening of peace talks between the Sudanese government and the SPLA rebel faction of John Garang, in Nairobi, British intelligence operative Baroness Caroline Cox would mobilize her Christian Solidarity International (CSI) for a strategy session.

The conference took place in Westminster Chapel, on Oct. 25. Representatives of CSI from the U.K., Pakistan, Mexico, Romania, and other international offices were present at the conference, which had "Christian Human Rights" as its theme. In her keynote address, Cox recycled material she has presented orally and in written form over the last years. Three-fourths of her remarks dealt with Sudan, which she damned for alleged support of terrorism, slavery, ethnic cleansing, and so on. Regarding slavery, she said that the CSI had "two strategies": one was to pay ransom, to buy slaves back out of bondage; as for the

second strategy, she did not specify. What was meant, was the CSI's continuing strategy to overthrow the government of Khartoum. Baroness Cox showed slides of some of her 20 illegal visits to Sudan, among them pictures of herself in the company of Abdul Aziz Khaled, the commander of the British-backed "rebel" forces of the SPLA and Eritrea, in the east.

Among the participants at the CSI conference, were the following: Rev. Stuart Windsor; Dr. Mircea Ciumara, deputy prime minister of Romania and head of CSI in Romania; David Atkinson, Conservative MP, vice president for life, CSI-UK; Paul Diamont, barrister; "Mamma Lobita," Isabella Torres, Mexico; Bishop Richard Hara; Richard O'Connor; Mervin Thomas, chairman of CSI-UK; and Dr. R.T. Kendall from the U.S., now of the U.K.

Among those who had been invited, but sent messages expressing their regret that they could not attend, were MPs: Julian Brazier, Win Griffith, Dr. Liam Fox, Maria Fyfe, Roger Gale, Lord Avebury, Lord Ashbourne, Simon Hughes, Gary Street, Don Toughie, Sir Teddy Taylor, Lord Hayhoe, and Lord Gilbert; and Members of the European Parliament: Anita Pollack, Stan Newans, Tessa Jowell, David Hallam; and the Bishop of Ely.