

to consider setting up in Sudan something like the UNSCOM inspections that they have in Iraq. It seems very clear that what Baroness Cox is trying to do here, is to create further provocations and actually increase the pressure on the Sudanese government, providing cover for further belligerent moves in the south against the government.

I wondered if you had heard about this, or if you have anything to say about this kind of activity on the part of Baroness Cox.

Beda: Yes, I've heard about it, but I have not been able to pay much attention to it, given my responsibilities, and the lack of information. So I will not be able to talk very seriously on it.

What I know, is that Baroness Cox had made accusations against the Sudan, about slavery, which made it clear that she, like other people, does not realize that this war is destroying the southern Sudan, more than it is affecting the north. She, like other people, does not know that if you talk about Islam, at this time, Islam is spreading in the south more than at any other time. And so, if you are a Christian, to develop the churches, it is better to stop the war, than to try to create extension of it. So, this is all that I know about it. But I think, from the way she behaved on the slavery issue, one should think twice before taking seriously anything that Baroness Cox does on any program related to the Sudan.

EIR: Your government has set up the Southern Coordinating Council for these 10 states. What is going to be the relationship between these states and the Federal government, over this four-year period?

Beda: The relationship will be, simply, that the Coordinating Council will represent the President in the south. That some of the powers, or most of the powers of the Presidency, of the Federal set-up, will be transferred to the Coordinating Council. And so, the President will deal on a closer and more sympathetic basis, not really having to pass it through a bureaucracy, to make things very easy.

EIR: You have been a leading politician and activist from the south. You're also a Christian. Do you feel confident that this effort, this constitutional process that's come out of this national congress, is real, is viable, and that it should be supported by everyone in this country and the West as well?

Beda: Yes. I have not only been a longtime politician, since 1978, but I have witnessed each and every government since independence, as an intellectual, as a civilian, as somebody from southern Sudan.

I think what was lacking, was political will. You see, to do anything in the world, if political will is not there, you are wasting your time. Because of the pressure the Sudan has suffered, really. Garang doesn't know what he has done; that if he came now, he would be a hero. But southern Sudanese are not well educated, they can be used by high technology. But if he were independent and were to come, Garang would be a great man in this country.

And so, the political will for the first time has emerged. The First Vice President, who died recently in a plane crash, has been wept for by all of us. I was with him in a very isolated town, called Bor, about two months ago. The statement he gave there — unfortunately, there was no press there, so it was not reported. What [the late First Vice-President] al-Zubair Mohammed Saleh said in Bor, about the Sudan, was historic. He said that the Sudanese people have suffered a great deal, and they will never again come back to suffer like this. So, let the southerners decide among themselves whether to remain as part of the north, or to go. If this is a statement by the First Vice President, and he said it among the southern Sudanese, what better confidence-building agreement can there be?

So, I'm talking of *will, political will*, which is not written, but is identified in the hearts of those who are in power. The only thing is, that if you prolong the war, and you bring the wrong people in again here, then things will be spoiled.

When I go abroad, to the ILO conference, and I hear somebody in Geneva saying there is slavery in the Sudan, I have no respect for such a forum. I told them, how can you receive somebody who is so politically motivated, when you could easily visit Juba and see for yourselves?

So, to answer your question, I think the political will that has developed in this regime, has never existed before in the past, and I'm afraid it may wane, it may wane, if it does not get the right response.

Interview: Samuel Aru Bol

Southern leaders are working with Khartoum

Mr. Bol is a member of Sudan's National Congress, representing the United Democratic Front, Salvation Front; he comes from Lakes State, in the south of Sudan. He was with rebel leader John Garang in the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1994 until recently, when he returned to Khartoum to join the National Congress and work toward unity of the nation. This interview was conducted in Khartoum on Feb. 20 by Lawrence Freeman, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, and Uwe Friesecke. The text has been edited and abridged.

EIR: Mr. Bol, you just attended a National Congress conference. Could you tell us what you consider the most significant developments coming from that conference?

Bol: The most important development was that the National Unionist Party, a party of great importance in the Sudan, a part of the Democratic Unionist Party, has joined the government

now, in the person of Sharif Zeinal-Abdin. That is a very great development. That is, in addition to us. We, the members of the United Democratic Front, Salvation Front, have also joined this Congress. So this, in my view, is a very great development for that movement.

EIR: The new vice president, Sharif al-Hindi, comes from Mirghani party. Can you tell us something about his background, and why you think it's so significant, that he's joined the government now?

Bol: I think he is also trying to save the Sudan, because these various quarrels and fightings have gone too far. And he is just like us, he does not believe that that is the right way. The right thing is for people to sit together, and resolve our problems. So that Sharif Zeinal-Abdin should think like this and join us, is, in my view, of great importance. And it is likely to affect the thinking of the Mirghani, and Mr. Sadiq al-Mahdi, and Mr. John Garang.

EIR: Now, you come from the south. It is said that northern Sudan—Muslims, Arabs—are persecuting the south, trying to dominate the south, to Islamicize the south. This is what the media in Europe and the United States say. But yet, you're supporting this government, the National Salvation Front. Could you tell us why?

Bol: This government of the National Salvation Front has declared, in its statement in 1996, that it is prepared to resolve the problems of the Sudan peacefully, and politically. This is why we have supported this government. This government, and the previous governments, have been carrying out awful policies in the south. It is just the change of policy, which [Sudanese President] Mr. Omar al-Bashir has announced, which is making the difference, and to which we have decided to respond.

EIR: So, when Bashir took over in 1989, do you think that was the beginning of a change in policy?

Bol: No. I did not see a change in policy then; I saw it in 1996. That is the time the government said it was prepared to talk with southerners, and to resolve problems peacefully and politically. That was the only time. Before that, they wanted just to kill and to be victorious militarily. It had actually fought, like the previous governments. But it had exhausted itself, and it had found that it was better to resolve these problems peacefully. [Bashir] was saying this from experience. And therefore, I believe that it was right.

EIR: Now, all the opposition groups, except for one, signed the peace treaty and Peace Charter in 1997 with the government, except for John Garang. What is keeping him? Or why won't he join this peace process to end the war in Sudan?

Bol: I think John Garang's policies should be stated by John Garang. I stayed with him for four years, to try to find out why he and all his colleagues could not come together, and

put the case of the south as one people. And, he did not give a satisfactory answer.

EIR: Riek Machar, also a southerner, has been made the other vice president of the National Congress. Is that also a move by the government to resolve this problem?

Bol: In my view, this is what the government is thinking about. The Sudan government feels that there is always a need for some southerner to be sitting near it. So, if Riek Machar is there, and Riek Machar is for the interests of the south, we think that he will contribute toward the solution of the problem.

EIR: Can you say anything about the process of rehabilitation and reconciliation in the south? I know that the government has talked about efforts to repatriate Sudanese citizens who have fled from war-torn areas, such as Wau. They want to re-establish local economies, re-establish a viable agricultural sector, and so on.

Bol: In my view, it is a very important part of the peace process. If it is not well done, we will definitely be failing in carrying out the peace process. The failures there indicate that we are failing in this respect, because the people responded to peace, and we were not able to give them food, shelter, or farming implements, to prepare themselves for the next planting season, because the rainy season is coming up, after April.

As to why these people ran away from Wau, fleeing into the countryside: Up to now the facts are not yet at our disposal; but I feel that the fact that we did not receive them well, that we did not treat them, that we did not shelter them, and that we did not give them the physical security needed, had a bearing on it. The fact that we are not really taking great care of them, of their security and food, is affecting the peace process.

We hope, after this national conference, that we will address this matter more seriously.

EIR: How much of the south does John Garang still represent?

Bol: In my view, John Garang, at the moment, is not the true representative of the people of the south. He is fighting for unity of the Sudan. So, whether he succeeds or he fails, this will not stop the war. It is when we succeed, we who are prepared to solve the case of the south, that there will be peace for the whole country.

John Garang, and the people with whom he's associated in the National Democratic Alliance, the NDA, these groups are people who worked before, and were *worse* than the present government. So, if they succeed, they have not told us how they are going to solve the problem. They talk of "unity," and you see, unity may be a unity of the land, but not unity of the people. What we want, is unity of the people. And, this government is prepared to tackle the question of the unity of the people.

I think John Garang is under the spell of some other powers. He is not acting on behalf of the aspirations of the people of the south, who have not differed with me.

EIR: Can you specify that?

Bol: Well, if he cooperates with the countries which are against the Sudan, and he does not talk to the government of the day, and he is prepared to talk with any Arab who has run away from the country, he is definitely not talking about the interests of the people of the south.

John Garang could have solved the problem of the south a long time ago. He never thought about it. He's thinking of sitting in Khartoum here as a king, as a ruler. He is not thinking of the south. Southern Sudan would have gotten its freedom a long time ago.

EIR: Would you want to say which countries are supporting John Garang, outside of Sudan?

Bol: Don't you know them?

EIR: Yes.

Bol: [Laughs.] I think you know them.

EIR: Could you explain to us how the Southern Sudan Coordinating Council will work?

Bol: The Southern Sudan Coordinating Council is intended to coordinate the activities of the 10 states of the south. This is because, you see, southern Sudan looks at itself as *one*, though there are many people who think it has never been one historically.

We have to coordinate the activities of all of the states of the south, if we are to bring peace to it. Because any misbehaving in any single state, will affect the rest. Therefore, the intention now is to make the Coordination Council a center, where all the governors of the south meet, together with about 14 other people, to coordinate all the policies which are aimed at stopping the war, and rendering services to the people, and developing the people, and protecting human rights. All this is to be done by the Coordination Council, in coordination with the other governors.

EIR: And were there representatives, delegates, members of the National Congress from all ten states present at the conference that just closed?

Bol: Yes.

EIR: If you are successful in reaching a peaceful future for the south, do you think that this will also affect the situation in northern Uganda, which is involved in conflicts as well?

Bol: In fact, it will affect nearly all African countries, be-

EIR SPECIAL REPORT

The True Story Behind The Fall of the House of Windsor

Reprints of EIR's 1994-1997 groundbreaking exposés

The studies reprinted here are essential combat manuals for the war which must be fought to save civilization, from the financial, economic, and social breakdown crisis brought on by British Imperial dominance of the world economy.

The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor
(Oct. 28, 1994)

The Sun Never Sets on the New British Empire
(May 24, 1996)

Britain's "Invisible" Empire Unleashes the Dogs of War,
(Aug. 22, 1997)

**Epilogue:
Can the House of Windsor Survive Diana's Death?**
(Sept. 12, 1997)

Order from:

EIR News Service

P.O. Box 17390 Washington, D.C. 20041-0390 Order number EIR 97-004 **\$75**



cause we are neighbors to all of them, and the insecurity in the south, is affecting them all. So, if we can succeed in restoring peace and order for the southern Sudan—and we are a very peaceful people, by the way, we are not troublesome—if we restore peace and order to the people of the south, the rest of Africa will be restored to some sort of rule of law. And, we think this will be done. And particularly the people of northern Uganda.

EIR: What would your aspirations be, in economic terms, and in development terms? Assuming you achieve peace, which is in sight now, what would be the first steps that you would take economically, infrastructure-wise, etc., to build a future for the south?

Bol: Actually, this is stated in the Sudan peace agreement, very clearly, so I will answer just to supplement what is in the agreement.

Our intention is to see that the people of the south apply policies of self-reliance. Anything which will help our people to depend on themselves, is what we will encourage. Anything else, which has made the people of the south look outside, should be helped by improved infrastructure. We are intending not to engage in a lot of public deals, but in privatization projects.

EIR: What will happen to the Jonglei Canal project? Do you think that will be restarted?

Bol: I think this will depend on our relations with the Egyptians. Of course, we have a lot of things to tackle first. We have to settle our relations with northern Sudan, and to settle our relations with Egypt. The Jonglei Canal is not only a project which will affect us; it will affect the rest of Africa, and therefore, those African countries that will be affected by this project, should be involved in the discussions. The Jonglei Canal may serve as a uniting factor, or a dis-uniting factor. We do not know what will happen. It will depend on the studies and researches, of the government of the day.

EIR: Why was this project stopped in the first place?

Bol: The project was not stopped intentionally, but it stopped in the course of fighting, because you can not undergo that kind of development project, while people are fighting. But I think now, once the fighting stops, people will think about what to do with it.

EIR: Are you confident that in the interim period, the social, political, and economic integration of the south into the entire country, will proceed to a point that, in a referendum, the people will vote for unity?

Bol: With proper policies, we think we can unite. But, if people go on violently, as they have been doing, and they are resisted, then a point may come when people will have to break up unconsciously, without knowing what they are plan-

ning for. But, if there really is a plan, I think it will succeed.

EIR: What do you think the countries of Europe and the United States could do, in order to contribute to the success of this peace process, including the economic integration?

Bol: The most urgent thing is to stop the war, to persuade the people who are interested in war to stop the war. The people should be repatriated, resettled, and relieved of their difficulties. And, they should be given some sort of education, and information, as to exactly what are the issues.

If the people of the south are made to feel that this is their country, and they can be secure in it, there is no problem. The same thing also: We do not like anybody in the north here to feel that because he is of Arabian origin, he is unwanted. This is not the case.

So, in my view, it is possible for the Europeans and the Americans, to help in the coming-together of these people. You saw, it was done by the British. And then the British left us with no safeguards, and so we got into this mess.

EIR: You said that from 1994 to 1998, prior to coming to this National Congress conference, you were with John Garang in Kenya. What were you doing before that? What has been your involvement in the fight in the south, and anything else you can tell us about your past?

Bol: Yes. You see, we were surprised to find that the leaders in the SPLA were disunited. This alarmed us here. And here, our parties were dissolved. So, if our parties are dissolved, and the people there were also running into difficulties, the fate of the south was very bad, you see? So the Union of Sudan African Parties resolved to send a delegation, and I was a part of that delegation, to Kenya, to try to unite the various factions of the SPLA into one. I did my best to see that they were united. I succeeded in uniting others; but, John Garang refused to be united with other groups.

EIR: Up to now, John Garang has refused to work with the Sudanese government. Sadiq al-Mahdi is now heading the National Democratic Alliance, which includes support from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, and outside support from Great Britain. The governor has now made an overture, and you and other people have come forward to see the sincerity of the Bashir government in this effort. But, these other forces are not coming forward. What is left for the Sudanese government to do?

Bol: What we are going to do now, will be to put our house in order, and to prepare the country, a way in which people come to power in the country, democratically and peacefully, but not by fighting. And, we will beg the big countries, like America and the Europeans, and even our brother Africans, to help us in carrying out this program.

And, in my view, these leaders will come around. Sadiq must come, and Mohammad Othman Mirghani, and John Garang. They must come, and join.