

**United Nations Mission In Sudan
UNMIS****27 April 2005****SRSG**

The UNMIS SRSG, Jan Pronk, accompanied by the Principal DSRSG will go to Addis Ababa on Thursday 28 April for discussions with the organization on the expansion of AU activities in Darfur. A report on the AU's role in Darfur has been circulated to a number of governments but has not been made public. The meeting in Addis Ababa will be also be attended by the AU Special Representative to Sudan, Ambassador Baba Ghana Kingibe.

On Tuesday 3 May, the SRSG will go to Nairobi where he will meet with the staff and directors of the Moi Foundation. He will discuss the future of UN assistance to the foundation, specifically with reference to the further support of South-South talks. There were open and frank discussions at the recently concluded session of the talks which led to a consensus on accepting the leadership of the SPLM and a pledge to defend the CPA.

Political

On Darfur, the AU is actively seeking to revive the political peace process. Principal Deputy SRSG Taye Zerihoun met with the AU mediation team in Addis Ababa and SRSG Pronk and Mr. Zerihoun met again with the AU team in Khartoum earlier this week. A meeting with concerned partners is scheduled to take place before the formal resumption of the talks which is now forecast for late May.

Military

The first contingents from Nepal have begun to arrive by air in El Obeid. An Antonov 24 transport aircraft has brought in a total of twelve Nepalese and some contingent owned equipment. The first flight arrived last Sunday morning and another flight arrived this morning. For the moment the twelve Nepalese drivers and logistics staff are staying at the Logistics Base in El-Obeid.

Pre-Deployment Training for around 40 UN senior staff officers and military observers started yesterday in Nairobi. The UNMOs are drawn from a wide spectrum of countries, ranging from China to Uganda. . The training, which covers all aspects of living and working in Sudan, will last for around two weeks, when a second group of SSOs and observers will then also be trained.

The UN military deployment plan has been finalized. UNMIS and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations are working together planning for the construction of sector sites. The approaching rainy season will also impact on the deployment of troops to some outlying areas. The Force Commander undertook visits to Malakal, Wau and Juba during the period 21-22 April. He met with the authorities at each location, including the Walis, and officials of the two parties. A key aspect of his visit was to assess the progress of camp site preparation.

Humanitarian

Bentiu area in the South received food from WFP distribution for the first time in a long period. WFP also reports that the supply route from Tripoli to Darfur has opened for operations. In a press release (copies available) WFP has stated that thanks to a rapid donor response, they will not be forced to carry out expected ration cuts in Darfur in May.

The price of millet, the staple food in West Darfur continues to increase due to lack of availability. Small quantities are available in the Kreneik area. This is a further indicator of the looming food shortage in this area, following poor harvests last year, the inability of IDPs to farm their land and the low rains received last season.

The UN Fund for Population Activities reports that it will officially open its Population Census Support Unit tomorrow, 28 April. The PCSU will facilitate technical cooperation on census matters between the Central Bureau of Statistics and the New Sudan Centre for Statistics and Evaluation. Census data is important to pave the way for power and wealth sharing across all of Sudan and will pave the way for future democratic development.

Mine Action

Preparations are underway for a visit by the UN Mine Action Support Group from 25-29 April. The purpose of the mission is to raise resources for humanitarian mine action in Sudan and to raise global awareness of mine risks in Sudan. Main mine action activities this week were focused on the Nuba Mountains, Rumbek and Kassala. In Rumbek, mines-awareness sessions were held for girls at upper and lower primary schools. No mine incidents were reported this week.