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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN

UN expects confrontation between Government and Eastern front

(*Al-Ayam, 5 Jan, Khartoum*) SRSG Pronk anticipates that confrontations may take place between the Government and Eastern Front in Hamishkoreib area following the notice given by the Eastern Front to the SRSG Pronk that it would not allow the Government to move in the areas from which SPLA would move out.

Furthermore, Mr. Pronk stated that: “We came to hear that the Eastern Front will not allow so, which means that there may be a fight between the Government forces and the Eastern Front”. He also stated that the Joint Military Forces decided to send a mission on 15 January 2005 to Hamishkoreib in order to facilitate SPLM moving out of the area. Pointing out that already had moved 1500 troops out of the area, but still has part of its forces there.

SRSG Pronk also confirmed that there is a split in the Eastern Front over the Libyan mediation.

Jan Pronk: I can hardly believe the Chadian accusations

(*Sudan vision, 5 Jan, Khartoum*) The United Nations Secretary- General Special Representative to the Sudan has declared that he can hardly believe the Chadian accusations of the Sudan government’s involvement in the conflict in Chad.

... I can hardly believe that there is any truth in the allegations coming from Chadian sources against the Government of Sudan. What would be Sudan government’s motive behind that?

It is to increase the insecurity, violence and tension in Chad? Jan Pronk said at a press conference yesterday.

Of course this will put Darfur in a difficult situation because tension between Sudan and Chad will have negative consequences on efforts made to reach peace in Darfur and I am very worried about that, he added.

On the issue of the withdrawal of the Government forces from Southern Sudan, the Special Representative said that some forces are leaving the South. There is a redeployment schedule whereby they have to reach a deadline somewhere in February.

There are quite a number of people in the South who think that there is no reduction but rather an increase in forces. According to our monitoring of the movement of forces, that is not the case. I had discussions myself in Wau with the authorities who also expressed some concerns and who came with some specific evidence, we are investigating all the complaints.

Mr. Jan Pronk further stated, there is movement of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) within the South from one place to another in order to move out; similar to Juba assembly point.

We are monitoring the whole process and decided to be there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in all the airports and also curtailed the possibilities for Nile landing. Also, to be present in other places around Juba not only the airport because there were allegations at certain moments by people that SAF will come by barge, he explained.

We are investigating everything at the moment, but we don't really have evidence that there is a violation.

On the eastern Sudan, Mr. Pronk said that the SPLM has asked for assistance for redeployment of forces, Pronk said, adding that they have received the agreed on necessary financial resources from the Government. The SPLA had admitted they have received financial resources.

... Secondly, the major redeployment of 50,000 forces also with heavy weapons took place a couple of months ago without any advanced notice, Pronk stated.

Both the UN and Government have said to SPLM if you could do it last time without requesting support, why can't you do it this time? He wondered, adding that some ad hoc support is always possible but the redeployment of SAF and SPLA has not been made conditional for the international community to provide finance and logistics.

Mr. Jan Pronk also informed the media that the SPLM has asked for an extension of one month as of January 9th, 2006 for the redeployment of their forces in eastern Sudan and this has been agreed upon, so that there is no violation of the CPA.

But the UN SR stressed that according to the CPA the Government forces have the right to be where the SPLM forces were stationed before in the Eastern Sudan, he said in response to statement made by the Eastern Sudan front that they will not allow the SAF to take over SPLM positions in Eastern Sudan.

Pronk warn against security deterioration in Western Darfur

(*Al-Ayam*, 5 Jan, *Khartoum*) The UN expressed concerns about the serious conditions in Western Darfur, and about the Sudan-Chad tension on borders altogether with building up of forces by two parties on borders.

During his Press Conference yesterday, the SRSJ Pronk, described the situation in Darfur as being very serious, at the same time, he expressed his concerns with respect to the slow pace of Abuja Talks process.

Mr, Pronk appealed to the wisdom of leaders in Khartoum and N'djamena to do all possible efforts to be able to control the dispute and cool down tension.

UN raises doubts about accuracy of Chadian accusations against Sudan

(Al-Rai Al-Aam, 5 Jan, *Khartoum*) The SRSJ Pronk doubted the accusations of Chad to Sudan to be true.

During a Press Conference yesterday, Mr, Pronk said that Chadian accusations to the Sudan are not accurate and irrational. Because that any support to be given by Sudan in favour of the Chadian opposition will only open fire on both parties, having in mind that Sudan is too much concerned with Darfur issue than to open new fronts.

Furthermore, he expected that Sudan-Chadian tension to increase, stating that tow parties are sending troops to the borders. He also called on two parties to be wise enough to decrease tension and stop accusations to avoid further deterioration. SRSJ also expressed concerns about the slow pace of Abuja Talks, attributing it to the Sudan-Chad tension.

SPLA was granted additional month to move out of Hamishkoreib

(Al-Rai Al-Aam, 5 Jan, *Khartoum*) The SRSJ Pronk revealed that, based on an agreement reached for, the SPLM was granted an additional one-month time in order to be able to move its 3300 troops out of Hamishkoreib. He also expressed his concerns with respect to possibility of a confrontation to take place between the Government and Eastern Front, hoping that an agreement will be reached by two parties to avid such confrontation.

Mr. Pronk further stated that they were unable to go to Hamishkoreib due to the activities carried out by the Eastern East, who refused to allow the UN to visit the area. Adding that the UN had to constitute a mission including the Government and SPLM to assess the humanitarian and security situation there, which will visit Hamishkoreib mid current month.

He also expressed his condolences for the death of 27 Sudanese refugees, who were killed in Cairo last week, and criticized the Government for arresting a journalist as well.

UN Doubts Chadian Accusations Against Sudan

(Thursday 5 January 2006) UN secretary general representative in Sudan Jan Pronk said in a press conference held here yesterday that, "I don't believe that Sudan has an interest to destabilize Chadian security." He said escalation of dispute between Sudan and Chad, should disturb security in all over the region."

Pronk hopes that the proposed Tripoli summit be able to cool down tension between the two countries.

On the other hand Pronk has congratulated Sudanese people on commemoration of golden jubilee of independent day which conceded the one year CPA anniversary. As well Pronk appreciates President Al Bashir statement independent day particularly commitment to peace agreement and constitutional rights for citizens. He also has hailed president commitment to eliminate poverty.

UNHCR says it has not requested probe into Cairo refugee deaths

Jan 3, 2005 (CAIRO) — The UNHCR said Tuesday it has not requested an inquiry into the deaths of more than two dozen Sudanese refugees after Egyptian police forcibly broke up a three-month protest outside the agency's Cairo offices.

"We are not calling for an inquiry at this point in time," UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman Astrid van Genderen Stort told reporters.

She made the comment as demands intensified for an independent inquiry into the deaths, which came after thousands of riot police wielding batons and firing water cannon stormed a park in Cairo last week.

Egyptian judicial sources said on Saturday that they would launch a government-led inquiry.

The refugees and asylum-seekers had called a sit-in at the park in Cairo's affluent Mohandiseen neighbourhood, aiming to draw attention to their cause.

A child died late Sunday, medical sources said, increasing the death toll to 28. The young boy had been in a coma since he was hospitalised after Friday's violent clashes.

Relatives said that despite his condition, the boy had remained cuffed to a bed.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW), local rights groups and opposition and independent MPs have all demanded a probe to determine the circumstances that led to the high number of fatalities.

"Given Egypt's terrible record of police brutality," HRW said in the wake of the incident, "an independent investigation is absolutely necessary to assess responsibility and punish those responsible."

The UNHCR's Stort stressed that the UNHCR asked the Egyptian government to intervene and clear the park only after numerous lengthy negotiations with protest leaders failed to convince them to call off the action.

"Nothing that we proposed was being listened to. The demonstrators on the square wanted something impossible," Stort said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has described the deaths as "a terrible tragedy that cannot be justified."

The prominent Egyptian actor and UNHCR goodwill ambassador, Adel Imam, at the joint news conference with Stort, said the refugee agency had exhausted all avenues for a peaceful end to the protest.

"There was no result," added Imam, who participated in some of the talks.

Still, a probe has to be conducted, he said. "There has to be an investigation," Imam urged.

The interior ministry has defended the actions of its forces, accusing the Sudanese of aggression.

Egypt said Monday it had detained over 2,000 Sudanese following the raid on the park and that it would deport to Sudan those not registered with the UNHCR and without legal residence in the country.

Family members contacted by AFP complained that they had difficulty locating relatives still unaccounted for, as the Egyptian authorities had kept moving detainees from one location to another.

The authorities have also denied family members access to some of the military camps holding those detained and were still barring access to hospitals and morgues which remain heavily guarded, they said.

"We have asked for access to all the people (in detention centres)," said the UNHCR's Stort, adding that officials had yet to approve the request.

The agency said it was already assisting some of those released, hundreds of who are camping at church compounds in the city as they have lost their apartments.

Government of National Unity

AU approves Khartoum summit Agenda

(Sudan vision, 5 Jan, Khartoum) The African Union Council of Permanent Representatives approved yesterday at its meeting held at the AU premises in Addis Ababa the Agenda of the Sixth African Summit due to convene in Khartoum.

Independence celebrations postponed in Juba

(Khartoum Monitor, 5 Jan, Khartoum) The GoSS has postponed celebrations of the country's 50th Independence Anniversary in Juba because January 1, 2006 coincided with the Christian's feast "Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God".

After intensive preparations which included military and police forces parade, folk dances, singing and sports activities were about to march from the nation's hero, Dr John Garang at 10:00 a.m. in the morning but nobody bothered to turn out to the celebrations ground. Instead the citizens of Juba were streaming to their respective churches, Chapels and prayers canters.

Since the attendance was very poor, the Vice President of GoSS, Dr. Riek Machar directed postponement of the celebrations to be jointly celebrated with the first anniversary of the signing of the CPA on January 9, 2006.

SPLM Describes Resolution on National Capital Status as Good

(Thursday 5 January 2006) SPLM has described setting up of national capital administration and establishing of a commission for non-Muslim as good and meets movement demands. The movement spokesman Walid Hamid said resolutions undertaken by presidency of the republic created good administrative system for ruling the capital and put an end to dispute over the capital status.

Meanwhile he said parties concerned should nominate their ministers according to percentage determined for each party in the cabinet of the national capital.

Sudan's NC-SPLM to jointly administer Khartoum

Wednesday 4 January 2006 17:28.

Jan 4, 2005 (CAIRO) — Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and former southern rebels have agreed on a formula to jointly administer the national capital, state television reported Wednesday.

The NCP and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) struck the deal nearly a year after they signed a landmark peace accord that ended over 20 years of north-south conflict, which left some two million people dead.

The January 9, 2004 peace agreement called, among others things, for all parties to take part in the administration of Khartoum during a six-year interim period leading up to a referendum on southern independence.

"During the interim period, the two parties shall be adequately represented in the administration of the national capital," under the agreement which the NCP signed with the SPLM in Nairobi.

The accord adds that Khartoum "shall be a symbol of national unity and reflect the diversity of Sudan".

State television explained that the parties had agreed Khartoum should be run by a eight-member cabinet comprising four ministers from the NCP, two from the SPLM, and two from other northern political groups.

The status of Khartoum was among the thorniest issues during talks that led to the signing of the peace accord, which exempted the south from Islamic law or sharia, but stipulated its continuation in the north, including Khartoum.

SPLM negotiators tried but failed to have southerners — most of who are either animist or Christian — residing in Khartoum exempted from sharia, which under the accords shall be applicable to non-Muslims in the north.

The agreement, however, called for the formation of a special commission "to ensure that the rights of non-Muslims are protected ... and not adversely affected by the application of sharia law in the capital".

President Omar al-Beshir has ordered the formation of the commission, whose members will include Christian and Muslim scholars, judges and civil society leaders, state television said.

Darfur:

Leaders of Darfur movements arrive in Tripoli

(Al-Ayam, 5 Jan, Khartoum) At the same time upon which the presidential mini-summit of Tripoli has been adjourned yesterday, Arkwi Minawi, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement, arrived in Tripoli accompanied by 13 members of the armed movements of Darfur participating in Abuja Talks. The purpose of their visit is to appraise the Libyan President of the difficulties encountering the Talks in relation to the power sharing and security arrangements' files.

ABUJA NEGOTIATIONS SUSPENDED TILL AFTER EID AL-ADHA

(Thursday 5 January 2006) The African Union special envoy and chief mediator for the negotiations in Abuja Dr. Salem Ahmed Salem, had met the facilitators and the international partners and acquainted them with the difficulties which face the negotiation process. Dr. Salem has affirmed during the meeting the need for more cooperation and consultations between partners and the African Union's mediators toward reaching an agreement on the issue of Darfur. Dr. Salem warned that the dispute between Sudan and Chad will negatively affect the process for achieving peace in Darfur, expressing his wishes that the tension between the two sister countries will be ended shortly. The African chief mediator affirmed that the negotiations in Abuja will officially be suspended on Sunday, January 8th, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, and will be resumed on January 14th, while unofficial consultations would be continued during Eid Adha vacation. Meanwhile, the spokesman of the African Union's mediators, Nur Eddin Al-Mazni, said that the committee for the sharing of wealth has discussed 80% of it's agenda and what remained are two items and some

pending issues. On the sharing of power, Al-Mazni said that the work team which was formed by the committee has not seen progress concerning the 4th item on the federal system, all levels of government and jurisdiction, pointing to that the Sudanese parties demanded return to negotiations in a general session. He said that the parties agreed to postpone the negotiation about the 4th item until more consultations are conducted, adding that they agreed to move for the 5th item which includes participation in all institutions on the federal and other levels of governance and holding talks on the 6th item which deals with the state's institutions and services.

A Delegation Represents Darfur Conference will Leave to Abuja

(Thursday 5 January 2006) A delegation representing all political forces who have participated in Darfur comprehensive conference will be leaving to Abuja/ Nigeria to submit the conference recommendations to AU mediators and Darfur rebels movements.

Governor of northern Darfur State Osman Yousif Kibir told (*smc*) the delegation will be leaving in days. The governor urges rebels to discuss the conference recommendation in constructive manner and not try to undermine such efforts. Kibir seems likely wants rebels overlooked bias statements expressed by some parties on conferences recommendations based on personal agendas.

Sudan, Chad relations

Mini-Summit Over Chad-Sudan Tension Postponed

(Thursday 5 January 2006) Meeting of AU select leaders on Chad, Sudan postponed

The African Union (AU) has postponed its planned special emergency meeting of "selected leaders" scheduled for Wednesday to defuse the tension between Chad and Sudan, the spokeswoman for Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said on Tuesday.

"The meeting earlier billed for Tripoli would no longer hold as scheduled," the official News Agency of Nigeria quoted Oluremi Oyoas saying.

Oyo gave no reason for the postponement but Chad reportedly had indicated that it would not be able to honor the invitation of Obasanjo, also the current AU chairman, to the Tripoli meeting on Wednesday.

Obasanjo had invited a selected number of heads of state, including the neighbors of both Chad and Sudan, to attend the meeting at which the problem between the two countries would be discussed.

President of Chad Idris Derby was in Nigeria a week ago to personally deliver his complaint on the December 18 alleged attacks in which several Chadians were allegedly killed by rebels backed by Sudan, to Obasanjo.

Derby also used the opportunity to voice out his country's opposition to Sudan being host of the next AU extraordinary summit to be held in Khartoum later this month

Chad accuses Sudan of recruiting mercenaries

Jan 2, 2005 (N'DJAMENA) — The Chadian government late Monday accused neighbouring Sudan of "recruiting mercenaries to attack Chad" and inflame conflicts in the area.

"The (Sudanese) government of Omar Hassan El-Bechir, with its policy of inflaming conflict in the sub-region starting with Chad, continues to recruit mercenaries" and "reorganize adventurers" by giving them

the financial means and material "to come attack our country," said government spokesman Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor in a statement.

Chad's government has called on the African Union (AU) and the international community to help avoid a further escalation of the conflict which could have "incalculable consequences", the statement added.

Chad declared a "state of war" with Sudan last week following a December 18 attack on the town of Adre, on the border between the two countries, by Chadian rebel groups which N'Djamena claims are supported by Khartoum.

An extraordinary meeting of the heads of state of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) is scheduled to be held here Wednesday to address the deteriorating relations between Chad and Sudan.

Other Developments

Egypt delays plans to deport Sudanese refugees

Jan 5, 2005 (CAIRO) — Egypt has delayed a plan to deport more than 600 Sudanese refugees Thursday, the UN refugee agency said amid continued wrangling over a raid against Sudanese protestors that left 28 people dead.

"They will postpone the deportations that were planned for tomorrow," Astrid van Genderen Stort, a spokesperson for the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, said.

The deportations will be put back by three days, she said.

Egypt arrested over 2,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in the wake of last week's violent clashes that left some 28 Sudanese dead and hundreds injured and has been holding them in military camps around the city.

"We have appealed for days now to have access to the people in the military centers, so we are going to get this access tomorrow, apparently," Astrid said.

"We will have access for three days to assess the status of the people in the centers, to assess their legal status and to see if there are people that are in need of international protection," she added.

The Egyptian authorities had said they would begin deporting some 654 Sudanese on Thursday.

Human rights groups have expressed concern for the safety of those being returned, many of whom lost their documents when Egyptian security forces stormed the park where they had been protesting for months.

Egypt plans to expel 645 Sudanese - official

Jan 3, 2005 (CAIRO) — Egypt plans to expel 645 Sudanese, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday, despite contrary assurances to the United Nations' refugee agency following the killing of at least 27 refugees last week when police broke up a protest.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Fatma el Zahraa Etman said the Sudanese would be repatriated by boat on Thursday, adding that Egypt had the right to remove illegal immigrants and those who break Egyptian law.

"There are 645 Sudanese who are going to go back to Sudan. They are leaving by boat on Thursday ... They may be illegal immigrants. Why should we send a refugee back? If they have broken the law of the host country," she said

Earlier in the day the United Nations' refugee agency said it had received assurances from Egypt that Sudanese asylum seekers would not be deported to Sudan.

"We have no confirmation. Our representative was at a meeting at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) with the ministry of foreign affairs and nothing was mentioned," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Astrid van Genderen Stort.

"In general a refugee has the same rights and obligations as every other citizen and people who have broken the law have the right to undergo due process," she told Reuters.

Last Friday, Egyptian police used sticks and water cannons to move up to 3,500 refugees who had been protesting at a squalid camp outside U.N. offices in an affluent Cairo district, killing at least 27. Some had been there for three months, demanding resettlement in the West.

Talks between the Sudanese and the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to end the protest broke down on Dec 22, after the protesters rejected a deal signed by protest leaders with the UNHCR.

UNHCR concessions included reviewing the status of the protestors, giving asylum seeker status to those not yet registered with the agency, and inviting applications for "one off" financial aid. Stort said the offer was still open.

The refugees say they face racism, unemployment and a lack of education and healthcare in Egypt since they fled violence in Sudan. The UNHCR says it cannot move all refugees to countries in the West.

Sudan's north-south civil war lasted over two decades and made 4 million people homeless. A separate conflict in the Western Darfur region has produced a further 2 million refugees.

A peace agreement in January 2005 ended the north-south civil war but many Sudanese say it is not safe to return home as the deal is fragile.

The UNHCR says it has more than 20,000 Sudanese registered with the agency in Egypt. It puts the total number of Sudanese living in Egypt at two million to three million.