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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN discusses tomorrow budget of the hybrid

The first preparatory meeting assigned to allocate a budget for financing the hybrid operation, scheduled to be deployed in Darfur early next year, will be held tomorrow in New York. Sudan Chief Delegate to the UN Abdulmahmoud Abdulhalim told (Alsudani daily) that the UN Administration would attend the meeting with a view to express their vision to this biggest peace keeping operation in the world. He said that the deliberations on the hybrid operation's budget would continue for three or four days to initially adopt the budget prior to its submission to the UN General Assembly next December. The African group would submit during the meeting a report on their administrative, logistical and technical needs.

Sudanese outbreak of Rift Valley Fever continues to grow – UN

November 15, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — The number of confirmed cases and deaths from the outbreak in Sudan of the viral haemorrhagic disease known as Rift Valley Fever (RVF) continues to rise, the United Nations World Health Organization reports, but authorities are stepping up measures to try to contain its spread.

At least 329 cases of RVF have been confirmed as of yesterday in three states in eastern Sudan, WHO said in its latest update, up from 228 cases reported a week ago. Some 96 people have now died, an increase of 12 in the past seven days.

The outbreak has so far been confined largely to White Nile, Sinnar and Gezira states, and WHO said the cases that have been reported in Khartoum state, which surrounds the Sudanese capital, are not indigenous but were imported from one of the three affected states.

Gezira is witnessing the greatest increase in human cases, according to WHO, with most being reported in an area close to irrigation canals that is home to livestock and mosquitoes.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has deployed a senior animal health expert to Sudan to assist local veterinary services with prevention and control measures in animals, while the WHO Country Office and the Sudanese Health Ministry have presented a joint response plan to international donors in Khartoum.

WHO said it is also anticipating that the Sudanese Federal Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries will now implement an integrated control programme to try to limit the spread of RVF. This programme will include social mobilization activities to raise awareness among the local population about the health risks of the disease.

But the agency called for greater measures to be introduced, taking advantage of all media, including television and radio, and the support of community and religious leaders, to ensure that at-risk communities are more aware.

(UN News)

WFP dropping food to flood victim in Orinyi Upper Nile

November 16, 2007 (RUMBEEK, Sudan) — On Thursday 15, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) had began air drop operation in Orinyi town of Malakal Upper Nile State in Southern Sudan to deliver life-saving food assistance to more than 45,000 who have been cut off by heavy rains.

WFP spokesman Mr. Simon Crittle says that WFP will drop food close to 100 metric tone to some 3,000 beneficiaries affected by flooding in Orinyi.

As part of the one – month operation, WFP will drop more than 1,700 metric tones of food to flood affected people spread across 12 locations in Southern Sudan .

Much of Upper Nile especially Orinyi village in Fashoda county was inundated by flooding this year, washing away food stores, drowning livestock and making roads impassable in Orinyi town.

Also local community in Orinyi town of Foshoda complain that although this food is for only two month, it still not enough cover about 3,000 people affected by floods.

WFP Simon Crittle Spokesman, said that this food been dropped today here in Orinyi is only for two month.

The WFP pre-positioned food throughout the South in temporary warehouses earlier this year in anticipation of annual flooding. But heavier rains than usual left thousands beyond reach. Preliminary results of WFP crop assessment of Southern Sudan indicate that flood waters have destroy crops in some communities and that the annual harvest will be impacted. As well as meeting immediate food requirements in flood – affected communities, the airdrops will compensate for crop losses in the month ahead. “Simon said”

WFP has contracted a Ukrainian company at a cost of US\$500,000 to operate a jet aircraft, an Illusion 76, to carry out the drops. The plane carries a food payload of 36 metric tonnes.

This airdrop operation requires a team be on ground at the drop zone as the aircraft passes over. As safety is the first priority, the team uses a high-powered VHF radio to give the pilot the all clear before the food is dropped.

The drop zone is marked by a huge White “X” made from grain sack, and white banners at either end. The plane slows to almost stalling speed and at the precise moment the food is released through door in the belly of the plane. The food basket for the affected communities includes grain, pulses, vegetable oil, and salt and in some cases sugar and corn soy blend.

(ST)

[FAO sounds alarm over locust infestation in Sudan](#)

November 15, 2007 (NAIROBI) — The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that a dangerous infestation of locusts could emerge along the Red Sea in November and December following an outbreak of the insects in northern Sudan.

"Recent field reports indicate that locust numbers have increased in the summer breeding areas in Sudan, primarily north and east of Khartoum where ground surveys could be conducted," FAO said in a statement on 12 November.

The agency said unusually favourable breeding conditions had caused wingless hoppers (the second phase in a grasshopper's life) to concentrate and form small bands, while adults (locusts) had formed several small swarms.

The Sudanese government mobilised aerial and ground control teams and had already treated more than 11,000 hectares, FAO said.

However, it said finding and treating all locust infestations in the remote desert areas of northern Sudan was difficult.

"Consequently, more swarms could form in the interior and move to the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan during November," the agency added.

"If good rains fall along the coast this winter, locust numbers are likely to increase dramatically and significant infestations could develop by February that would require substantial control operations," FAO said. "Once conditions dry out along the coast, locust swarms could form and move towards the east to the Arabian Peninsula and towards the west to Darfur by early summer."

(IRIN)

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

[On Al Bashir's Speech at the 18th Anniversary of the Popular Defence Forces \(PDF\), Wad Madani, Aljazeera State, 18 November 2007:](#)

Al Bashir:

"We would like to say to those who think we sought peace because Darfur is inflaming we were not weak even when they turned all our borders from the Red sea to Central Africa to areas of military operations", *Akhbar AlAYom*.

"We would like to say to our brothers in the SPLM that we are the ones who brought peace, we are committed to peace and the rights of our people in the South, we are committed to the peace agreement but we will not go the USA or Europe", *Akhbar AlAYom*.

"They (US and Europe) are now talking about Darfur; they said they wanted to bring international troops to protect the people of Darfur, to protect them from what? From the NGOs, from the slave traders? Can you believe that thousands of children are transported by air from Darfur to Chad and France without the knowledge of the State, the EU and the UN also? They all participated in the conspiracy...", *Akhbar AlAYom*.

"They said they want to bring us people from Scandinavia, from Sweden and Norway, those who insulted Prophet Mohamed, we would like to say to them that whoever insulted Prophet Mohamed his feet will not touch the Sudan inshallah, we have an agreement and we will implement what we have agreed to but if Ban Ki-moon and Konare wanted to decide in New York to bring us a battalion from Thailand and

troops from Nepal, Sweden and Norway, we would like to say we have to negotiate on whoever they want to bring, they have to consult us and agree with us”, *Akhbar ALYom*.

We have Signed CPA from Position of Strength, Al Bashir

Sudan Vision, By: Al Sammani Awadallah, President Al Bashir has reiterated Sudan's commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, describing peace as a strategic option for which they fought in South Sudan. Al Bashir, in his address at the celebration of Popular Defence Forces 8th anniversary held yesterday in Wad Medani, Gezira State, dismissed the Abyei experts' report as valueless, and that the government would only accept the boundaries of 1905, without waiving an inch whatever the circumstances were. In what seemed a message to SPLM, Al Bashir said neither US nor Europe are more concerned about South Sudan and Darfur peace than the Sudanese Government, accusing US and Europe of hypocrisy to control the wealth of Sudan. The President said the party that triggers the conflict shall bear the responsibility and stands its ground inside the country instead of learning it. "We shall be waiting in the battlefield," he said. Al Bashir added that they have signed the peace agreement from position of strength, affirming that they honour agreements and commitments. Meanwhile, President Al Bashir has called for opening of popular defence camps, "We are advocates of peace but the current situation requires full alert," he added. He further stated that CPA implementation has achieved considerable progress, but according to him, the complaining voices were louder. On the other hand, Al Bashir renewed Sudan's rejection of deployment of non-African forces in Darfur unless that is consulted over with Sudan. He stated that currently UN Secretary General and AU Commission Chairperson are considering the deployment of corps from Nepal, Sweden and Denmark to join the hybrid operation. However, he categorically rejected the deployment of troops from any state that has offended the Prophet (Allah Peace and Blessing be Upon Him). Al Bashir said those who believed that Sudan will only bow to pressures are mistaken, assuring that Sudan will never accept humiliation. The President accused France, US and Israel of involvement in the attempt to smuggle Darfurian children to Paris to bring back the slave trade.

Sudan president orders paramilitary forces mobilization, rejects Abyei report

(*ST*), November 17, 2007 (MEDANI, Sudan) — Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir today ordered the mobilization of the paramilitary forces created to fight the former southern rebels.

Al-Bashir also reiterated his rejection to Abyei commission report saying he would not begin the war but has to be ready for such eventuality.

Addressing a mass rally this morning at the Wad-Medani Stadium (capital of Al-Jazeera State), some 200 miles south of Khartoum, celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), President al-Bashir ordered to the PDF to open its camps and mobilize troops and get prepared for any eventuality.

"Now we order the PDF, the legitimate son of the people, to open their camps and gather the Mujahideen [Holy warriors] not to wage war but it is obvious that we should be ready."

The Sudanese president reiterated his commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the war between the North and the South. He reminded the crowd that the last report by the CPA Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) showed that his party respected and implemented better the dispositions of the CPA.

The AEC report referred to by Al-Bashir has not been released last week but sources familiar with the matter told Sudan Tribune it appeared favoring the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) except on the issue of Abyei.

Al-Bashir said that the NCP is committed to the Abyei Protocol only with the border of 1905. He further said the government is not concerned with Abyei Boundaries Commission (ABC) report and that the latter is of no value to them.

"They [ABC writers] should dilute and drink it" Al-Bashir added.

In a rare and implicit threat to his partners in the government, Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), Al-Bashir issued a warning to and said that they should not think that "We are weakened because we signed the peace and there is a war in Darfur."

The Sudanese leader said that throughout the civil war years they were able to circumvent attempts by local and foreign forces to topple them.

"Our response has been stronger than their missiles and their slyness. As a result we became victorious in the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile and the stunning victory that shook all the monsters and tyrants in Torit" he added.

Al-Bashir criticized the travel by the SPLM leader and his Vice President Salva Kiir to Washington saying it is better for the southern ex-rebels to work with its partner and find a solution to the pending issues instead of rallying foreign countries to pressurize his government.

"We tell our brothers in the SPLM that America, Britain and Europe are not more interested in peace than us," he said.

"Is it conceivable that aircraft should carry thousands of children from Darfur and Chad to France without the knowledge of the government, the EU or the UN? All these are lies. They are all accomplices in this conspiracy. They want to bring back slave trade as they transported in the past millions to US and South America" he added, referring to the failed attempt by a French charity's to fly children out of Chad.

The SPLM signed a peace deal in January 2005 with the government of the National Congress Party in January 2005 ending two decades of civil war in Southern Sudan. The peace deal made the SPLM, the ruling party in the south and the NCP the ruling party in the north.

But last October the SPLM suspended its participation in the national unity government to protest against the ill implementation of the CPA. The SPLM objections focused mainly on the Abyei issue, north-South border and troop redeployment.

Last week the US Administration had proposed, during a visit to Washington, a set of "confidence-building measures" to Salva Kiir, who is also the First Vice President of the republic. Abyei was at the top of these measures. However, the southern Sudan leader rejected the proposal.

The spokesman for the US State department Sean McCormack said last week that based on Kiir's assessment of the CPA implementation, the new proposals are "no longer relevant, because they've [SPLM & NCP] actually moved beyond it".

(ST)

Sudan President Criticizes Western Interference, Says Ready For War

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)-- Sudan's government doesn't want war but is ready for it, President Omar al-Bashir warned Saturday during a rare show of public support for a paramilitary force accused of atrocities in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

"We will not seek war, but if imposed on us we are ready," al-Bashir told a rally to mark the 18th anniversary of the Popular Defense Forces, a militia he created to fight southern rebels and that has since been unleashed on Darfur.

He also accused western powers backing a 26,000-strong U.N. and African Union force due in Darfur in January of lying about their motives to end four years of bloodshed.

"Those Americans, those British, and those Europeans are not keen about the people of Darfur, or the people of southern Sudan or the Sudanese people," he said.

"They are all liars and hypocrites who are only interested in the riches and resources of Sudan," al-Bashir told the rally in the town of Medani, some 200 miles south of Khartoum, the capital. His address was broadcast live on national radios.

His allusions to the government's capacity to wage war came amid souring relations between Arab-dominated northern Sudan and the former rebels from the south of the country. The north-south civil war ended in 2005, but southern Cabinet ministers walked out of the national government last month because they accuse al-Bashir's regime of violating the peace agreement.

The president said his government wouldn't seek to spark a new war with the southerners, but warned that those who want to bring war to the north "should bear the consequences."

Like the ethnic African from the south, Darfur's Black tribes took arms against Khartoum in 2003 to protest what they describe as decades of discrimination.

The government is accused of retaliating by unleashing militias of Darfur Arab nomads that are blamed for the worst atrocities against civilians in a conflict that has killed over 200,000 people and made 2.5 million refugees.

Many observers say the janjaweed and Khartoum's Popular Defense Forces units are often one and the same. The government denies this, but the International Criminal Court in the Hague has issued warrants against a janjaweed chief and a Cabinet minister on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Khartoum resisted for months a U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur. Under a compromise deal reached earlier this year, the hybrid U.N. and A.U. force must be predominantly African.

Al-Bashir reiterated warnings Saturday that he wouldn't accept some European nations to take part in the force.

He singled out Scandinavian countries, where some media had reproduced a caricature of Islam's Prophet Muhammad last year, and said Khartoum wouldn't allow them to contribute troops.

"Anyone who spoke blasphemously about the Prophet will not set a foot on Sudanese soil," he said.

President Bashir refuses to budge over oil region

KHARTOUM, Nov 17 (Reuters) - Sudan's president said on Saturday he would not budge "an inch" on the contested borders of the oil-rich Abyei region.

Khartoum and former southern rebels the Southern People's Revolutionary Movement (SPLM) are divided over the demarcation of Abyei, the source of much of Sudan's energy reserves.

The conflict was at the heart of the SPLM's decision to withdraw its ministers from Sudan's coalition government last month that threatened a peace agreement ending Africa's longest civil war.

"We will not give an inch, not so much as an ant's body," President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said in a televised address in Arabic at a military rally in the town of Wad Medani.

"We say Abyei's border is the border of 1905." This refers to a ruling by the then British authorities that government supporters say puts all of the central Abyei region in the northern region of Kordofan.

The president also accused the West of trying to "restart the slave trade" by allowing groups to smuggle children out of Africa, a reference to the recent arrest of French humanitarian activists accused of abducting children in Chad.

"They take hundred of children from Chad and Darfur by planes to France. And the E.U., U.N., and U.S. don't know about that? They want to restart the slave trade," he said.

Senior SPLM politicians last week blamed Khartoum's stance on Abyei for the break-up of talks between the sides. They said they were now waiting for the return of SPLM leader Salva Kiir from a trip to the U.S. before pushing for more talks.

Prominent opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi last week told Reuters the Abyei issue could eventually force south Sudan to secede.

Abyei's status was left unresolved in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between Khartoum and the SPLM in 2005. Khartoum eventually rejected the findings of an independent commission on the demarcation.

Bashir was addressing a rally to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the formation of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), a government-aligned militia accused of carrying out war crimes by the United Nations' human rights office.

The president said he was committed to implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. But twice in the speech he called on the PDF "to open training camps and to gather mujahideen not for the sake of war but to be ready for anything."

SPLM Reactions:

Press Statement

By SPLM Secretary General

Pagan Amum

17 November 2007

(*Akhbar AlYom*)

1/ The SPLM would like to renew its full commitment to peace, no return to war and regrets the statements of the NCP leaders threatening of return to war.

2/ The present crisis is the result of violating and not implementing the CPA by the NCP, hence, it cannot be overcome without fully implementing the agreement.

3/ The Transitional Politbureau have agreed on a package of points representing the minimum ground of the fundamental issues of the CPA which if not resolved the SPLM Ministers will not resume their work in the GoNU.

4/ The only way for avoiding regional and international intervention depends on the capabilities of the two parties to implement the CPA. If the two parties failed then the IGAD countries and the IGAD Friends Forum have a moral obligation to intervene to rescue the agreement in case it is on the verge of collapse. The same applies to the international community especially the UN as it witnessed the signing of the agreement.

5/ The SPLM would like to affirm its preparedness to continue the meetings of the six-member committee when the Presidency meets and issues resolutions defining the mandate and approach governing the work of the committee.

“According to SPLM Spokesperson Mr. Pagan Amum over Radio Miraya today (yesterday), the re-launch of the so called PDF by president Omer al Bashir is yet another violation of the CPA and it amounts to a declaration of war on southern Sudanese. However, Pagan said Southern Sudan is still committed to full implementation of the CPA but will only fight on defensive when attacked by the Khartoum government”, *Sudan Tribune Daily*.

“The SPLM has warned of the non implementation of the CPA on the part of the NCP, pointing out that the CPA was different from previous ones as it has been protected by the SPLA. Member of Abyie Boundaries Commission Ajang Fout said that the NCP signed the CPA with the intention to dishonor it, adding that “if they wish to go to war, we are ready”. He called for resorting to the IGAD and the UN to surpass the dilemma of Abyie, underling that the abrogation of the CPA by the NCP would prompt the secession of the South before the referendum. He revealed that suspending the implementation of Abyie protocol was due to the fact that 65% of Sudan’s oil was discovered in Abyie, *AlAyam*.

SPLA Spokesman:

“SPLA Spokesperson Maj. Gen. Kuol Diem said the PDF are unconstitutional and asked the NCP to abide by the provision of the CPA which recognizes only three armies, the SAF, the SPLA and JIUs”.

Diem was responding to president al Bashir who directed yesterday the PDF to open camps and mobilize its force at a PDF celebration of its formation. “The PDF is a militia which should be reintegrated in one of the said armies according to the security arrangements protocol”, he added, *Khartoum Monitor*.

Dinka Ngok:

“The Abyeians have threatened to install their own administration in Abyei in case the government did not implement the Abyei Protocol by 31st December 2007, saying that two and a half years had elapsed without constituting an administration in Abyei.

Colonel James Ajeng, Abyei Secretary in the SPLM said in a press conference yesterday that “President al Bashir’s statement on Abyei was his personal view as the Head of the NCP, adding that it is unbecoming of a president to speak in such a high partisan capacity. Ajeng said that the NCP cannot violate the Abyei protocol or the CPA as the CPA is well guarded by the forces of the SPLA. “Al Bashir is matchless in his anti-peace position”, he added, *Khartoum Monitor*.

Sudan offers 4 miln of oil to sell in January 08 (ST)

November 16, 2007 (SINGAPORE) — Sudanese state oil firm Sudapet has issued its regular monthly tender, offering 4 million barrels of Nile Blend crude for January loading, double the amount it offered for December, a trader said on Friday.

The tender closes on Nov. 22 and offers are to remain valid until Nov. 24, the trader added.

The higher volumes come after Sudapet offered only 2.6 million barrels for October and 2 million barrels each for November and December, and may indicate Sudan sold lower volumes, if any, through term contracts for the January-to-March period.

Sudapet awarded its previous tender for December Nile Blend, to European trader Arcadia at discounts of between \$3.50 and \$4.30 a barrel to the Minas Indonesia Crude Price (ICP), stronger than the previous month's levels.

The grade has rebounded, in line with other direct burning grades, on signs that these crudes may pick up ahead of the peak winter heating season.

Nile Blend took a hit earlier this year as expectations of a demand spike for crude and fuel oil from Japanese utilities failed to materialise after the country had to shut its largest nuclear facility in July.

(Reuters)

Accusing SPLM of inciting Darfur rebel movements to boycott Sirte: Ismail says we can use southern factions against SPLM (AlSahafa)

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail held the SPLM responsible for the failure of the Sirte peace talks on Darfur. He the SPLM has incited more than eight rebel groups not to participate in the talks. Speaking to Aljazeera TV he said the SPLM took the rebel factions to Juba and incited them not go to Sirte. "From the beginning we were convinced that the SPLM has no national programme for the national issues". The SPLM is hindering in the case of the Darfur issue and should know that this is not in its interest. "Would the SPLM accept if the NCP incites southern factions against it, it should think carefully, he concluded.

Kiir changes his route, flies directly to Juba not Khartoum (AlAyam)

First Vice President Salva Kiir was reported to have changed his route and preferred to fly today from Nairobi directly to Juba instead of Khartoum following the conclusion of a controversial visit to the US. News reports have disclosed that Kiir was scheduled to discuss with SPLM' leadership in Juba the development of the current situation, the suspension of the work of the six-member committee between the NCP-SPLM assigned to look into the pending issues of the CPA and the outcome of Kiir's visit to US.

Kenya urges quick implementation of Sudan peace deal (ST)

November 17, 2007 (NAIROBI) — Kenyan President has called for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as a basis of resolving the sticky issues between Sudan's peace partners the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation reported today. The SPLM pulled out of the government of National Unity on October 11 saying that a 2005 peace deal was not being implemented. The former rebels request the implementation of Abyei report, the north-south border demarcation and the redeployment of northern Sudan army from the oil areas in the south.

Mwai Kibaki, whose country was the lead negotiator in ending a two-decade conflict in South Sudan two years ago, was speaking at State House in Nairobi Saturday when he held talks with the First Vice-President of the Republic and the President of Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kirr Mayardit.

Saying that Kenya will remain engaged in the Sudanese peace process, President Kibaki noted that he had already contacted President Omar El Bashir on the latest crisis on the implementation of the CPA that occasioned the suspension by the SPLM in the Government of National Unity.

Kibaki welcomed the ongoing peace initiatives on the Sudan saying there was need to re-energize international support especially from those who signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Salva Kirr, who was on his way home from the US, briefed President Kibaki on the progress made in the implementation of the CPA.

He expressed gratitude over Kenya's efforts in resolving the South Sudan problem saying Kenya played a pivotal role as Vice Chair of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, which oversees the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

(ST)

Bashir says Sudan will not accept troops from four countries in Darfur (ST)

November 17, 2007 (MEDANI, Sudan) — The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir today reiterated his rejection of Western troops and others in Darfur peacekeeping force.

"The boots of those who blasphemed the prophet Muhammad would never trample on Sudanese land" Al-Bashir told the crowd at the Wad-Medani Stadium (Al-Jazeera State), some 200 miles south of Khartoum, celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF).

However Jan Pronk, the former UN special representative to Sudan speaking to Sudan Tribune last week dismissed claims by Al-Bashir saying that Swedish and Norwegian troops have historically "proven themselves to be very professional and impartial".

(ST)

Russia to rotate Sudan peacekeepers next January (ST)

November 17, 2007 (MOSCOW) — The Russian air group, part of the UN Mission in Sudan, will carry out a regular rotation from January 28 until February 2, 2008, an aide to the Russian Air Force commander said Saturday.

The group, consisting of 120 personnel and four Mi-8 helicopters, provides transport for UN military observers in Sudan, as well as transporting and accompanying cargoes, and carrying out rescue operations the RIA Novosti reported today.

"We have set up a coordination group to start the preparation for a scheduled rotation of the Russian air group as part of the UN Mission in Sudan," Colonel Alexander Drobyshevsky said.

The first team of Russian peacekeepers arrived in Sudan in April 2006. They are to stay in the country for about 5-6 years, with regular rotation of the peacekeeping contingent.

(ST)

US Bush, S. Sudan leader discuss ways to improve peace implementation (ST)

November 15, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — The head of the transitional government in the non-Muslim southern Sudan talked with President George W. Bush about ways to revive a peace agreement signed in 2005 that has bogged down in recent months.

Bush and Salva Kiir, vice president of Sudan and president of the southern Sudan administration, met privately Thursday in the White House's Oval Office and said nothing as they posed for pictures. White House spokesmen gave only bare-bones recaps of their discussion.

Both White House press secretary Dana Perino and Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for the National Security Council, said the two "discussed ways to reinvigorate implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan."

Perino and Johndroe said Kiir thanked Bush for his help in negotiating the CPA and his commitment to its full implementation.

They also said Bush "encouraged Mr. Kiir to continue his efforts to unite Darfur rebels in their attempts to forge a unified political settlement with the government of Sudan."

(AP)

Sudan: Demarcation team inspects documents, maps to classify North-South border

Text of report in English by Sudanese Media Centre website on 15 November

BBC Monitoring Service, [Unattributed report: "Sudan: Demarcation Committee Inspects Documents, Maps to Classify Border Line"]

Khartoum, 15 Nov. (SMC) -The technical committee for the demarcation of boundaries discussed in a meeting headed yesterday [14 Nov.] by the committee's deputy chairman and representative of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Colonel Rak Degol, the reports submitted by subcommittees to inspect maps and documents for the demarcation of borders between the north and south.

A reliable source said that the subcommittees should complete their assignment in one month time according to an agreed upon schedule.

The source stated that the technical committee would accept documents presented from the public survey corporation, national records office, federalism chamber and the US library of Congress, in addition to documents from military surveys and border and boundaries administration of the ministry of interior.

According to the source the technical committee accepts these organizations documents to classify the border line.

The committee urged the public to present any document that may help the committee complete its mission.

GoSS

The lost boys of Sudan find their way home (The Citizen)

The Citizen, “An emotional Dr. Daniel Madit Duop is greeted last year as he arrives at the Juba airport, southern Sudan for a reunion with family and friends. Having left home in 1984 he went to Cuba to receive education and then eventually to Canada, where he and several others completed their studies. Now the doctors are returning to south Sudan to stay. For these children of war it will take more than 20 years to complete their mission. The first three of the doctors who were part of Mr. Garang’s dream are about to conclude their incredible journey”.

South Sudan MP backs ex-rebels' decision to pull out of government

Text of report in English by UN sponsored Radio Miraya FM, Juba on 14 November

BBC Monitoring Service, The speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Nile State, Charles Yor Adwok, has declared the assembly's support to the SPLM resolution to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity.

Speaking at the opening of the second session of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Adwok called for alternative routes for delivery of goods to the Upper Nile State due to what he called an act of harassment by the north.

Miraya reporter in Malakal Muhammad al-Nur asked the speaker about the main issues the assembly was tackling in its sessions: "Promulgation of laws, laws that regulates lives, translating the constitutions into workable constitution that fits into the lives of citizens. To protect their property, regulate their daily functions, salaries, culture, protect it and respect it," Speaker says.

The speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the Upper Nile State also called on the state government to form a commission to fight corruption. He added that some of the state laws were still personal and Islamic. "Personal laws in the court that regulate marriages, etc. are still Islamic. Although temporary, we have said the Southern Sudan Assembly has passed, we use the SPLM Constitution of 2003, but there is need within our constitutional framework in the state to bring forward laws that can make life easy for citizens on trade, culture, and security, and on private laws also."

Darfur

Darfur children kidnap scandal implicates 4 Chadians (Sudan Vision)

Sudan Vision, By: Mona Al Bashir, Sources informed Sudan Vision that four Chadian citizens are said to be implicated in the recent Sudanese children kidnap attempt, namely, Teina Municipality General Secretary, Ahmed Haroun, Senein Ahmado Nasr, Deputy Commissioner, Adam Idris Haori and the Said-to-be Native Judge, Mohammed Dokti.

Moreover, 17 Europeans, including members of the principal indict, the French Organization, Zoe du Ark, are still under arrest along with the complicit Chadians, pending completion of interrogations.

In that context, the Chadian authorities had released three reporters, four crew members of the aircraft plotting to traffic the victim kids and four Spanish citizens who were among the kidnappers' group. From this the number of the detainees has dropped to only 10 including the said four Chadians.

Meanwhile, a Sudanese delegation has submitted a memo to the Human Rights Council meeting in the Hague protesting the crime of kidnapping and demands the international community to take strict measures that will protect Sudanese children against such heinous crimes.

Sudanese physician from Darfur honored with Kennedy Award (ST)

November 17, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — Mohamed Ahmed Abdallah, a Sudanese physician, received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award on Friday November 16 for his assiduous work in Darfur, where he provides medical care and assists survivors of torture and violence.

As head of a center for the treatment, documentation and counselling of victims of torture and rape in Sudan, Abdallah, from the majority ethnic Fur tribe, became a target for government scrutiny.

He was the first physician from his region in Jabal Marra, and later built a network of doctors in Darfur to help document rapes and other abuses that victims were too afraid to report to local police.

"This prize will offer some form of protection. ... They keep reminding me to watch myself," he said with a smile.

Speaking in interviews Monday and Tuesday, Abdallah predicted that failure by an expanded U.N. force of 26,000 peacekeepers to deploy by Dec. 31 would probably lead to more suffering and starvation, especially if humanitarian groups are not protected.

(ST)

US short of helicopters for Darfur mission - Gates (ST)

November 17, 2007 (WASHINGTON) — US Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday November 15 he has received no request for helicopters for a UN/African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur but the US military was too stretched to be of much help.

"I would say, just as a matter of general principle, our helicopter resources are pretty pushed between Iraq and Afghanistan," Gates said.

Gates said that he was lobbying NATO defense ministers to provide more allied helicopters in Afghanistan to ease the stress on the US assets there.

Admiral Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, echoed Gates, saying that the US military would find it difficult to provide helicopters for the Darfur mission.

"That there would be a need makes sense. But where they'd come from would be pretty difficult for us right now," he said.

AU envoy says Darfur talks may not resume this year

November 17, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Stalled peace talks between Darfur rebels and Sudan's government may not resume until next year instead of as planned in December, a senior African Union official has said.

Negotiators had hoped to make significant progress in the peace talks by December to pave the way for the arrival of a 26,000-strong force of African Union and United Nations peace keepers in the troubled region.

But the African Union's Darfur envoy, Salim Ahmed Salim, told reporters late on Friday that organisers may have to wait longer for senior insurgent leaders to finalise their negotiating positions and agree to talk.

Salim said he was still hoping to make progress with AU-U.N.-sponsored talks by December: "But I am not one of those who say the talks must begin before then under any circumstances."

Negotiating teams would re-evaluate the timing "as the days go on" he said.

"We don't need to have a fixation on a particular date ... We are more attached to the principle of getting the negotiations going than to say they must start the next week or the week after," he said.

Talks would only work, he added, if the majority of Darfur's senior rebel leaders agreed to attend.

(Reuters)

Oil workers still detained in remote Sudan – Darfur rebels (ST)

November 16, 2007 (KHARTOUM) — Five kidnapped oil workers are still in captivity in a remote area of Sudan after a botched attempt to release them, their captors said on Friday.

The five men - three Sudanese, one Egyptian and one Iraqi - were abducted by Darfur rebels the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in an attack on an oil field in the Kordofan region, just east of war-torn Darfur, Oct. 23.

JEM said they handed the captives over to tribal elders who were supposed to pass the men on to the International Committee of the Red Cross on Monday. While the Red Cross confirmed it hadn't yet been contacted. But JEM commander Abdel Aziz el-Nur Ashr said on Friday the elders had returned with the captives after meeting heavily armed government patrols on their route. However he affirmed that the hostages are still in good health.

He said the tribal leaders were unable to advance any further because they thought they might be captured by the government troops. JEM was also unable to offer shelter, he said, because its soldiers had scattered across the heavily-mined area to evade attack.

"We are calling on the U.N. to intervene and take these people," he said. "It is very important as I cannot guarantee their safety. There may be danger for these people."

He said the hostages were near the remote settlement of al-Dbib, just over 70 km south east of the town of el-Muglad in west Kordofan, a region neighbouring Darfur.

Privately-owned independent Sudanese newspaper Al-Sudani reported on Friday tribal elders were demanding \$500,000 and a number of satellite phones for the release of the captives. JEM dismissed the report as untrue.

There was no one immediately available for comment from Sudan's military.

(AFP/Reuters)

South African appointed to head Darfur hybrid police (ST)

November 16, 2007 (UNITED NATIONS) — An assistant police commissioner from South Africa has been appointed to head the police component of the hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping operation (UNAMID) being deployed to the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan early next year.

Michael J. Fryer was selected by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, in consultation with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to become UNAMID's Police Commissioner, the AU said today in a press release issued in Addis Ababa.

Commissioner Fryer will have responsibility for implementing all police aspects of the mandate of UNAMID, which is aiming to quell the violence and humanitarian suffering that has engulfed Darfur since 2003.

Before this appointment, he headed the South African police force's Specialized Operation Division since September 2004 and, prior to that he was Commander of the South African Special Task Force.

(UN News)