

**The United Nations Mission In Sudan****Date: 31 August 2005****Office of the Spokesperson****PRESS BRIEFING**

Following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's weekly briefing (12:30PM) by Radhia Achouri, Spokesperson for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan:

Good afternoon ladies and Gentlemen,

ABUJA TALKS**UNSC**

The Security Council held a meeting yesterday and heard a briefing from DPKO on the status of preparations for the Abuja talks. At the end of the meeting, the Security Council Members adopted a press statement in which they urged the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the Justice and Equality Movement and the Government of the Sudan to return to the talks in Abuja on 15 September, as requested by the African Union, and urged all parties to negotiate constructively and urgently to secure an early agreement; hoped that the example set by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement reached at Naivasha for North-South reconciliation will have a positive impact on the Abuja Talks and on the future of Darfur within a stable and united Sudan; reiterated their support for the 5 July signing of the Declaration of Principles, which serves as a framework for further good-faith dialogue on more extensive negotiations pertaining to wealth- and power-sharing as part of a comprehensive settlement to the crisis in Darfur; reiterated their support for the continuing efforts of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) operating on the ground in Darfur. The full text was sent to you electronically and hard copies are also available in the room.

Dr. SALIM AHMED SALIM VISIT

PDSRSG Tayé Zerihoun met yesterday with Salim Ahmed Salim the AU mediator for the inter-sudanese talks on Darfur. Discussions focused on the ongoing preparations for the 6th round of Abuja talks scheduled to take place on 15 September 2005, which will tackle the issues of power-sharing, wealth sharing and security arrangements. Discussions included also UN support to AU for the forthcoming talks. Salim Ahmed Salim met later in the day with the UN and partners (who participate in the Talks as observers, including the US and the EU) to brief them on the status of the preparations for the talks.

MILITARY

-The CJMC meeting was held in Juba on 30th August 05, under the chairmanship of the Force Commander, Major General Fazole Elahi Akbar. During the meeting, the Commission decided that the Parties must deliver timely and appropriate information to UNMIS of all planned movements/reduction of forces and equipment for effective monitoring. Movements without verification will not be considered as authenticated. On AJMC issues, parties agreed to AJMC Terms of Reference (TOR) and Structure and decided to nominate their respective members at the earliest. It was considered that the absence of National Monitors is affecting the monitoring of the CPA. The Parties jointly declared that CJMC-members, AJMC-members and National Monitors with JMTs should be appropriately financially and logistically supported to discharge their Duties. The Parties informed that they have cleared mines between bridges one and three and that the Juba – Yei road will be open to traffic from the 31st of August 2005 without the bridges being placed. The Parties requested the UN to install the bridges as soon as possible. The SPLA informed the meeting on the redeployment of the forces to be part of the JIUs since the signing of the CPA. CJMC Members agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 13 Sept 05.

- Force commander Maj. Gen Fazole Elahi Akbar visited Malakal on 28 August where he attended the formal ceremony for the hand-over of the Verification and Monitoring Team operations to UNMIS. (*The VMT was established by IGAD and deployed in South Sudan to verify, monitor and report compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement as specified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed 15th October 2002 by the GoS and SPLM and the Addendum to the MoU signed 4 February 2003*).

SECURITY

- Attacks on trucks, including UN contracted ones, banditry and looting are increasing in Darfur. This is an issue that is of great concern for the humanitarian community

-A series of incidents was reported over the last days in the north-east of South Darfur, including various lootings of commercial trucks, unconfirmed attacks on 23 Aug. on two villages 10 km south of, and two villages 10 km west of Mershing, and an ambush on a GoS military convoy on its way to Nyala on 24 Aug armed men in uniforms riding camels whereby five GoS soldiers were reportedly killed.

- It's been reported that on 23 August, SLA attacked Al Malam (approx. 100 km North of Nyala, South Darfur). Following this attack and according to the GoS an unknown number of tribesmen were killed, 4 GoS soldiers were wounded and 5 civilians wounded. No SLA casualties were reported.

DEMINING

-On the deminer accident in the village of Moli along the Nimule-Juba road reported last week: according to the further investigation by UNMAS, there were two incidents involved two deminers on the same minefield. One deminer sustained light injuries as the mine was partially detonated, while the second deminer detonated the mine fully and sustained severe injuries with amputation of the right foot.

-An other mine incident that took place on 12 August in Damazin was reported by the Deputy Commander of SPLA-Kurmuk, whereby one woman was seriously injured resulting into her right leg to be amputated. She is still hospitalized in Kurmuk hospital.

-Two Mine Risk Education teams of Danish Church Aid (DCA) continued providing direct awareness sessions to IDPs in the Dar El Salam and Wadi El Bashir camps in Khartoum.

A. Juba/Yei RoaD: UNMAS team is widening the road to 8m from Juba to Mile 39. Bridge abutments have been cleared on the bridge to allow for launch of the bridge. Arrangement is underway to relocate another UNMAS team to conduct mine clearance to humanitarian demining standards..

B. Kauda/Talodi Road: Road verification has been done up to Kalkada North. A major constraint encountered is the old road from Kalkada towards Talodi which is heavily overgrown with trees and bush due to non-use for the past 17 years. In addition, identification of the old road has to be confirmed.

C. Kadugli/Abyei Road: This road was travelled by UNMAS, and is a well constructed/all weather road.

D. Al Abeid/Kosti/Renk/Malakal Road: The road between Al Abeid and Kosti is a well paved road which may not require verification. The road from Kosti to Malakal can only be worked on during the dry season. Samples have been taken by UNMAS team on this road from Malakal to Karadar bridge. Work has been suspended due to weather/wet roads and the asset has been redeployed to Kauda.

HUMANITRIAN

UNHCR

- On 29 August , the High Commissioner visited Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Kakuma camp houses some 66,000 refugees from southern Sudan. The High Commissioner told the refugees UNHCR would help them return home when they wanted to go back, and outlined what measures we're taking to prepare for their return. This includes building schools, de-mining roads and rebuilding health facilities.

Mr. Guterres met representatives of 5,000 southern Sudanese refugees who have arrived in Kakuma since the signing of the peace accords in January. They told Mr. Guterres they had fled militia fighting that had continued after the peace agreement was signed. Mr. Guterres also spoke to a group of 100 refugees from the Darfur region of Sudan who had walked for nine months to reach the safety of Kakuma. They said the Janjaweed had prevented them crossing over into Chad, where more than 200,000 refugees from the Darfur region are in 12 camps. The High Commissioner will return to Nairobi later today and on Wednesday will meet with government officials before returning to Geneva.

IOM

IOM has opened 12 information centres for internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in camps in greater Khartoum who wish to return to their homes.

The centres, three in each of the four official IDP camps of El Salam, Mayo, Wad El Bashir and Jebel Awila aim to provide easily accessible and up-to-date information on the return environment in southern Sudan, on the availability and cost of local transportation and on a variety of sanitation and health issues, including HIV/AIDS.

The information, which is available in English, Juba Arabic and Arabic is provided on a regular basis by UN agencies, including UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR. Mine awareness material is provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The full text of IOM press release is available.

OCHA

Update on Shikan

As most of you are aware, just over two weeks ago, in the early hours of Tuesday 16 August, several hundred families who were residents of the Shikan squatter area in northern Omdurman were forcibly removed to a location known as El Fateh 3, a desert area located over 40 km north of Khartoum with very limited life-sustaining services..

The UN and its NGO partners, Care International, Enfants du Monde, and Fellowship for African Relief, and the donor agency USAID, have been constantly monitoring the situation, visiting the site several times over the past two weeks. On Monday, a registration showed that nearly 830 families – or about 4,000 people have been relocated to the area. Although most families were from Shikan, the operation has been on-going, and smaller groups of people rounded up from other locations arriving regularly.

An emergency one-time distribution of food items for the families is planned for today. Also, Unicef, working with the local water authority, has set up three temporary 5,000-litre water bladders in the vicinity.

Part of the area is at risk for floods, and there was evident damage to rakubas and possessions following the heavy rains on Saturday, 27 August. In addition to food and water, primary needs also include non-food items such as plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, blankets and jerry cans.

The UN and its NGO partners are responding to the emergency needs that have been created, putting a large group of people at risk. ***This does not in any way sanction the relocation.*** All in all, forced relocations, further displacement and forced evictions result in increased IDP vulnerability and undermine the right to return voluntarily, in an informed, safe and dignified manner.

WHO- Darfur

WHO reported that in North Darfur, malaria cases have been increasing from 300 per week two months ago to around 800 cases per week now, due indirectly to the recent heavy rains. The State Ministry of Health has been spraying in IDP camps to combat the rising number of cases. The major coverage gaps are in SLA-controlled areas and progress still needs to be made to ensure safe passage for health personnel in those areas. The UN Joint Logistics Center and various NGOs in North Darfur have accelerated the distribution of mosquito nets in IDP camps. The State Ministry of Health, WHO and other agencies are also using other malaria control strategies such as community mobilization and education on malaria control, including the filling up of stagnant water holes.

This is what I have for you today and I am ready to take your questions if you have any.

Q: Firstly about Darfur; you are just saying that the situation there was deteriorating. We had quite a long period without these reports. If you accept that the situation is showing some sign of deterioration, what does that mean for the peace talks? It is hardly encouraging, isn't it?

Spokesperson: I just spoke today about the banditry, looting and armed attacks on trucks – commercial and United Nations hired ones. That is in the increase and one can venture the following assessment that yes, in that particular respect the situation is not getting any better. If you talk about the overall security situation in Darfur including the situation between the parties themselves, we can not say that the situation is deteriorating although we have those incidents. We would expect the African Union first to investigate them and to come up with its conclusion.

Of course any security incident should be of concern for us because we would like for the situation to be viable. We are quite familiar with these incidents that are quite regular. We do not necessarily conclude from this that the forthcoming Abuja talks are at risk or are being challenged or that this is some sign that the Abuja talks will be a failure. We know that the African Union is doing its best. Mr. Salim is here. I think that he will be in el-Fasher today or tomorrow and will be talking to the rebel groups. Everybody – the African Union, the United Nations – is doing its bit to get this track ongoing hopefully for sketching a final agreement between the parties.

Q: On Sheikan; it seems the Government of Sudan, when it moved these people, totally disregarded the agreement that the United Nations thought they had about consultation over relocations. Now that you are providing emergency assistance, are you worried? Doesn't it make the United Nations look particularly tough on this issue in that they make a move and they leave?

Spokesperson: Definitely that would not be our worry. The United Nations if it has to prove that it is tough, it should not be at the expense of the needs of people who are in dire need for assistance. Our stand on principle; we made it very clear to the Government of Sudan. We told them that that is not the way to go and there are principles that have to be respected. We even volunteered to assist them in improving on the way they plan their relocations. That is one issue. But when it comes to actual people who are in dire need for assistance, the United Nations can not make the point on its stand in principle by sacrificing the needs of people – we can not do that. And I made it very clear today that by providing assistance, that does not mean in any way that we are condoning the way or the manner these operations were conducted by the government.

Q: A final question; I have seen a lot of armoured personnel carriers – UN armoured personnel carriers – around in Khartoum particularly sitting in the car-parks of shopping malls, etc. Is this really a certain impression you want to create here? I mean is the security situation so bad you need to have APC's sitting around in AFRA Shopping Mall or ...

Spokesperson: You said armoured cars?

Q: Yes, this kind of armoured vehicles with UN people just sitting around.

Spokesperson: I don't know what to say about that because I didn't see any and we are not supposed to have these cars in shopping malls in particular. These cars, I mean the armoured ones, are not supposed to be in shopping malls. That's for sure. I will see further what is going on and come back to you but our policy is definitely one that wouldn't allow our military people to go out from our premises to shopping malls or other areas in armoured cars. But I will check.

Q: I have only two questions. The first is on what you said about the relocation of IDPs from Sheikan to el-Fateh and previous such incidents that occurred in Soba and other areas. The UN's view on the issue criticises government in its relocation and re-planning exercise. What is it that is required of the Government of Sudan or what is the most appropriate manner in which such relocations of IDPs and re-planning of towns and villages that would, at the same time, satisfy the UN?

The second question is on the SLM clashes in the Malam area. This is a habit that the armed groups have adopted ahead of each round of talks by such incidents that increase the state of tension. In light of these moves, do you expect the talks preliminary set to start on the 15th to arrive at a solution bearing in mind that all the parties now talk of expecting a final and successful round of talks?

Spokesperson: I will first of all start with your second question on the report on the attack on Malam. First of all, we can not comment on the issue before the AU carries out its investigations. We do not know and have no details on the incident and are waiting for the final say from the AU because, assuming that such clashes have occurred, the issue falls under the AU jurisdiction to monitor the ceasefire and the AU should decide who is responsible for these violations – if indeed there were clashes.

Secondly; as you said, all rounds of Abuja talks were preceded with similar incidents. This, however does not mean that we should lose hope that this next round of talks will be considerably or completely successful. You are aware of what happened before the previous and fifth round of talks and despite that the fifth round of talks resulted in the adoption of the DoP. In general, when such incidents do occur, our message to the parties is that they must maintain their credibility. You definitely do remember what SRSG Pronk said in his briefing to you on his talks with the SLM leaders and we continue to push towards that same message. The message today by the Security Council was also clear to the parties and we shall, as I said, continue the push.

On your first question on what is required of the Government of Sudan to do, our position is clear on the issue. We do acknowledge the right of the Government of Sudan to set plans for urban planning in any part of the country. This is a sovereign right of the GoS. But with the situation as it currently stands – you are aware of problems that those to be relocated face – the principles are to us clear: first of all and in light of the current situation, relocations must not be forced but voluntary; secondly the government must take into consideration before carrying out relocations the need for an appropriate site for relocation with at least the basic services and utilities that guarantee a reasonable and dignified conditions of life to the relocated. These are our principles and that's what we told the government. We had also offered to the government technical assistance and expertise, should they require it. There is a UN agency, HABITAT, which deals with such issues and can assist in light of their expertise. HABITAT has assisted a number of States that had similar problems – Zimbabwe, for instance, and other States.

The UN's position and the principles are clear and are set forth by International Law of which the Sudan is a signatory.

Q: My first question is on the UN Security Council committee on resolution 1591. That toured Darfur. Has it held talks with you?

Second: following government requests for UN assistance in the investigation of the helicopter crash, did you accompany the team to Moscow? What are the results of the investigations?

Spokesperson: On your first question, indeed the panel of experts appointed by virtue of resolution 1591 did come to Sudan, to Khartoum and indeed to the UNMIS headquarters. They made a series of contacts with UN representatives resident and working in the Sudan. The Security Council had requested that this panel of experts be granted all necessary facilities and we did give them logistic support in their movements and they were briefed by UN officials on the ongoing issues in Darfur.

On your other question on the probe committee investigation on the accident that killed Dr. Garang, the UN did not participate in any part of the ongoing investigation carried out by the Sudanese probe team. We have not gone to Moscow and have not been party to these visits that some members of the probe team had to Moscow.

Q:Why?

Spokesperson: First of all, by the time members of the probe team visited Moscow we had not yet received an invitation to participate in the investigation. Secondly; the Government of Sudan had indeed requested some assistance from us and I had briefed you last week of the GoS requests. In consultation with UN headquarters in New York, we looked into the GoS request and are still convinced that, as far as technical and substantive assistance is concerned, the ICAO is the appropriate party from which this assistance can be requested. On the other forms of assistance – government has also requested logistics assistance – we are waiting from Government of Sudan to clarify the specific nature of the logistics support they request and we shall provide assistance within our capabilities.

Q: My question is that now that the peacekeepers in Sudan are less than five thousand in number, i.e. less than half, what exactly is the specific time given for all the peacekeepers to be in the country because sooner or later in the coming months, peace will be implemented and that means that they need to be inside to protect people. What is the specific deadline given by the UN?

Spokesperson: Let me start by the first remark in your question. The peacekeepers of UNMIS are not going to be here to protect people. That is not the mandate. Again, I wish to reiterate that when it comes to our mandate, the military component is essentially here for monitoring the ceasefire and all the military aspects of the CPA. Two: the protection element of the peacekeepers is the one to protect the military monitors first and, two, the UN at large and its assets and its personnel. Three; to protect humanitarian convoys and humanitarian corridors. Four; within its capability and without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Sudanese authorities themselves, we protect civilians under imminent threat or danger. So I would like to clarify that first.

On your actual question, the timeline that has been given to you by Mr. Pronk is that we are working very hard to make sure that we finalise deployment by the end of September, the month of October. Of course we keep telling you about all the difficulties that we are facing and all the factors that were behind the delay in the deployment. We also have problems that concern the terrain itself; we have problems when it comes to the harmonisation of actions between the Troop Contributing Countries themselves – sometimes we have monitors first and we don't have the force protection to come with them so we cannot deploy monitors. And sometimes we have the opposite – we have the protection but we don't have the monitors and so on. That is an issue that UN headquarters is pursuing with the Troop Contributing Countries. As Mr. Pronk told you during the last briefing and as I reported to you also, some developments are taking place from our side following instructions from Mr. Pronk to speedup deployment. This is taking place and I have information that in the following weeks and during the month of September we are going to have many people coming from the military side. I don't have the overall number but what I could do is just to go back to my office and get you the overall numbers with the updates on how many are actually coming. But we have hundreds of people coming during the month of September. That is part of our efforts to speedup deployments but we will keep you informed as deployment goes.

Q: You talked about mines but did not specify how many areas have been affected bearing in mind that the war spread to a number of areas. Preliminary reports had it that about 458 areas in Sudan have been affected with a total number of more than 797,000 victims ...

Spokesperson: Sorry, what regions are you referring to?

Q: In general all the areas affected by the war in the country be it in the east or the south, with the exception of Darfur. Preliminary reports say 458 areas in Sudan are affected and these have resulted to over 797,000 victims. Can you give us more information – are these figures correct or could they be more or less?

To what extent have donors responded to support for mine action bearing in mind that this is an important and basic factor for preserving stability and peace?

You talked in past briefings on ongoing preparations to bring the GoS and the rebels of eastern Sudan to the negotiations table within the next month. The armed groups have agreed but the government is yet to respond. What date has been set for resumption of those talks?

There are reports that there is an acute food shortage in some areas in south Sudan especially those areas in north of Bahr-el-Ghazal. What role does the UN play to cover this gap bearing in mind that there are a lot of returns?

Spokesperson: I hope I will remember all your questions. I thought you would be asking one question but you asked four.

Personally, I have not seen this total number of 458 regions affected and do not know where you got the number. I'll check with UNMAS. But the situation in general in Sudan relating to the requirements for humanitarian assistance, the whole of south Sudan is in need for assistance, the whole of Darfur requires assistance, the whole of east Sudan requires assistance. We may have mentioned figures for demining in the Sudan Work Plan to determine the areas most vulnerable and most in need of assistance.

On the donor response, I don't have specific information on demeaning, but in general, we did say more than once that donors did send in some response to these requirements but this response is not enough. I also told you in a recent briefing that we still need more than 40% of the funds as set in the Work-Plan. Donors made generous pledges at the Oslo Donors' Conference but not all pledges have been met and we keep reminding them of the need to meet their pledges. The Parties on their part, I many reports on the issue, focus on this issue.

This brings us to your question on Bahr-el-Ghazal. The WFP has updated you and I did brief you on their behalf. The WFP had specified the funds required to cover the needs be it in south Sudan, the Transitional Areas or other parts of the Sudan. Unfortunately, the UN can only draw attention to this shortfall and to rouse the determination of these donor states to present these funds. In spite of this, the UN endeavours to provide assistance to all the needy but, unfortunately, in some cases we are forced to cut down on the assistance we give. To date, fortunately, the UN has not been forced to put a final stop to its assistance. We hope that all will pay heed to the pleas we have continuously been issuing. The issue basically remains in the hands of the donor states.

Your third question was on the east. Unfortunately there is nothing new I can give you on the issue. The latest information I have is that we had made contacts with the Eastern Front about a week and a half ago. We are waiting for the parties to set a date for the talks but are yet to receive a clear response or proposal the parties.

There was an earlier proposal for talks on the talks because, as UN, the role we play is that of a link between the parties to bring them to sit at one table and talk. Please understand that our role is not to mediate but to act as a link between the parties at their request. If they meet and agree to hold talks at a certain point of time, then they will decide on which party should mediate. This is all I have to say on the issue.

Spokesperson: Did you have another question?

Q: It is on more or less the same context. The eastern rebels had said the UN was planning to organise training workshops.

Spokesperson: We are waiting for the parties to set the date for their meeting. This date they set will help us in setting dates for the workshops. We are of course prepared to organise such workshops but are waiting for the parties to agree and set a date for their talks.

Q: In the paragraph on security, you state that there is an increase in banditry and looting but it is vague. In Darfur, the areas are divided into two sections: it is either under the control of SLM and JEM or the government. So in which areas is it that looting and banditry are on the increase?

Spokesperson: I did not check the area but I would say all over the place – in all Darfur.

Q: So it is not known who is ...

Spokesperson: No, it is in both places plus, it is very difficult to define which area is whose. You know that one of the bones of contention in the Abuja talks is the fact that the rebel groups did not notify the AU on the areas under their control. So that is very volatile.

So is all over the place; all over Darfur. And as Mr. Pronk said it in his briefing the other day to you, when he spoke to the SLA, he drew their attention to the insecurity in their area as well and he said “you have to take your share of the responsibility as well; you have to secure the roads for humanitarian activity and for commercial traffic because the people are in dire need for food and other goods so you all have to take your responsibility for it.” As far as the government stands, we always said that in terms of securing the roads and securing Darfur altogether, that is also the responsibility of the government. So we drew attention to it; we know that the African Union is contributing to securing at least some of these areas wherever they have enough capacity to do it. They are trying to do their best. They succeeded in many instances. However, the problem is that these incidents are in the rise so everybody has to do their part.

Unfortunately – we said it and this is what we warned everybody about right from the start – the more insecurity will prevail; the more the parties take time before they settle their problems by signing an agreement and respecting it, the more individuals and groups will seize the opportunity to impose war-lordism and examples are many other countries in Africa and elsewhere. The more the insecurity prevails, the more bandits and other elements will seize the opportunity to break havoc in the region.

Q: My other question is on the promises of the High Commissioner of the UNHCR and the promises he made to the refugees he visited in Kenya. First of all, what measures are being taken to prepare for the return of refugees? Is he speaking about the UNHCR or the whole UN agency?

Spokesperson: I guess he is speaking primarily about the UNHCR because that is his agency but he is speaking about the UN in general because in terms of return there is one UN strategy for return and that is a coordinated UN strategy between all UN operators in that particular field and we do work together. We have one strategy and it is being implemented by everybody.

Q: Before giving more promises to those people does he know that the people who have already returned are not finding schools or facilities and the roads have not been de-mined? There are already people who have returned and I am hearing of statements from the WFP that it is already worried about the food situation for these people and he is giving promises. On what basis is he giving those promises to these people?

Spokesperson: My understanding is that if he is making promises it means that he has actual plans and there are actual plans to provide that particular assistance to these people. And we told you already that we do have plans for taking care of returnees and their resettlement and so on. So I guess that is why he was talking about those issues and making those promises.

I understand that you are worried that since we have shortages in funds and since the situation is basically quite dramatic already, why would anybody make such promises because you fear that they will not materialise. This is what I understand from your question. Well, I don't think that the High Commissioner meant to give people promises that run the risk of not being kept – at least from our side. The UNHCR was one of the first and one of the main agencies that is lobbying for more resources and it has its own difficulties. However, they have actual plans – and when I say ‘they have’ I mean the United Nations at large including UNHCR when it comes to returns – and they have projects lined up for that. We are talking here particularly about organised and assisted return and I elaborated on that the other day

when somebody asked me about this issue. Well let us hope for the best – this is all I have to say. I do not expect that the High Commissioner will be making empty promises. We are really trying to make an actual difference but in concrete terms and not just talking about it.

But I would conclude by saying that the parties themselves have a tremendous responsibility to fulfil because, after all, these are citizens of the Sudan and the resources of this country should be also used in such projects to assist and to help and they have also to shoulder their responsibilities.

Q: Yes, and I agree with you that this is mainly the responsibility of the Sudan government and the Government of South Sudan but he should have left the promises to be given by these governments because when he made these promises it was in the name of the United Nations in one way or the other, isn't it?

Spokesperson: No, we have also obligations. We know that the responsibility is also in the hands of the government and the SPLM. However, the international community made pledges to the Sudanese people and to Sudan and we have to honour these pledges and we know that whatever resources the two parties might have is not going to be sufficient given the huge number of people, that's one. Two; because of the lack of everything that is needed for these people to be resettled or to go back wherever they want to resettle. That's quite a problem and we had commitments and we have to honour them. Of course, honouring these commitments does not depend on us only but it depends mainly on how much money we are going to be having from the donor countries and we continue to mobilise them. This is what we can do.

Okay, I am going to be taking two other questions and we will conclude.

Q: The SLM is supposed to hold its general convention around the 21st of September. Is this not an indication that the talks may be affected if it starts on the 15th as scheduled and continues beyond the 21st when the SLM is supposed to hold its general convention? Will you be participating in this convention as observers or have you been requested to do so?

My second question is that Mr. Kofi Annan was supposed to present his monthly report and there remains but one day to September. When then will he be presenting that report?

Spokesperson: On the SLM and it's general convention, we are not aware that the SLM will be holding its convention on the 21st of September. There are a number of conflicting reports coming from the SLM but we do not have any knowledge of when the convention will be taking place. We are aware that their field commanders in Darfur want the convention to take place and we and Mr. Jan Pronk did give you briefings on the issue and you are aware of Mr. Pronk's proposals that is basically aimed at preventing a clash in time between this convention that some of their leaders are determined to hold and the Abuja talks.

We are not aware of a date for the talks and can consequently tell you that we have not been invited .

On your second question on the monthly report, we are making the final touches to it at our level and will send the report to Mr. Annan who will change it as he deems fit and then issue the final report and circulate it to the members of the Security Council. We expect the report to be out in the first week of September.

Q: The GoS and the SPLM were supposed to have presented their respective list of participants to the Joint Integrated Units. Have they done so?

Spokesperson: What I do know is that the SPLA delegation to the Military Commission had presented a list on the re-deployment of the elements that are to participate in these Joint Integrated Units. The truth is that I have no details on the issue and I hope there will be no further delay in the issue. I want to clarify the following: the parties are to provide us – not with lists for the JIU's – but with the numbers and a timetable of their movements because the SPLA is supposed to deploy some troops to Khartoum, Kassala and all other areas in the Sudan while the Sudan Armed Forces is also expected to deploy forces to these areas and this deployment will be carried out jointly. In Khartoum, for instance, there will be joint units of the Sudan Armed Forces and the SPLA deployed together. The list we requested is basically for the monitors who will be appointed by the two sides so that they would be deployed with United Nations Military Observers. The joint integrated units and the joint monitoring units are two different units. The joint monitoring units will be made up of observers from the UN, the SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces and will basically be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. Joint integrated units, on the other hand, are a quite different issue and basically concern the parties themselves. We are not a party to that but among our responsibilities is monitoring the manner in which this particular provision is being implemented.

So these are two different issues.

Q: I was referring to the list you mentioned last week.

Spokesperson: The list we referred to last week was the list of representatives from the two sides to the joint monitoring units. You are aware that the UN will not carry out its monitoring activities alone but will do so through tripartite teams made up of the UN, the Sudan Armed Forces and the SPLA.

Q: Haven't you received these names?

Spokesperson: The SPLM had presented a list of about 30 names but we are waiting for the final list because what is required is a far larger number.

If there are no other questions, thank you all and I thank my colleagues the interpreters and hope I was not very fast for them - my apologies to them if I was.

Thank you all and see you next week.