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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission In Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Highlights

Local Arabic and English language press

Sudanese keen on securing delivery of relief materials to Darfur states

(SUNA) (23/9/08) -- The government has stated anew its desire to ensure delivery of relief materials to the affected people in Darfur states, by providing the required protection to secure for the humanitarian aid corridor according to the MFA. The MFA statement was in response one issued earlier by the European Group on SAF attacks in areas around Jabal-Marra in South Darfur. The MFA stressed that SAF activities in the areas in question were intended to confront armed robbery and provide security for relief convoys heading to sites in the Jabal-Marra area. It noted that the government is in ongoing consultations with WFP and UNAMID about convoy safety arrangements.

Sudan condemns tourists kidnapping

Khartoum, Sept. 23 (SUNA)- The MFA's Director of Protocols Ali Yusuf on Tuesday revealed that the group that kidnapped tourists in southern Egypt have crossed into the Sudan and are currently holding them in an area near Jabel Awainat, about 25 km inside Sudan's territory. He said contacts and coordination are underway between the Sudan and Egypt. He said an Egyptian team is currently negotiating with the kidnappers for the release of those persons and that at the same time Sudanese forces are besieging the area.

He has condemned the kidnapping calling "it terrorist act". He said the Sudan has a clear stance against kidnapping whether of aircraft or vehicle.

CPC to meet today

Sudan Vision reports the Ceasefire Political Commission (CPC) will hold a meeting today; UNMIS is participating in the meeting.

The meeting will discuss issues related to implementation of the Security Arrangement Protocol, deployment of JIU in Abyei and difficulties encountered.

US promised \$ 40 m for elections – Pagan Amum

Local dailies report SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said US Administration was ready to supports Sudan's upcoming elections with \$40 millions.

Amum, who was speaking at a press conference in Juba, said SPLM delegation which recently had visited America met some Darfur armed movements' leaders and discussed ICC with US Administration.

He noted that he was relieved from his GoNU Cabinet Minister post at the request of SPLM.

Interior Minister says unlawful courts in Kalma camp, Darfur IDPs want UNAMID protection

Al-Sudani reports that Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud has said unlawful courts in Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur, have tried civilians and issued death sentences. He said more than 50 murder cases have been reported, including a police captain and four policemen.

The camp was searched eight times, he said, adding an agreement was reached with UNAMID to control the camp by freeing it of arms, narcotics and politics. He has attributed insecurity in the camp to intensive rebel activity, SLM (Abdul Wahid) faction in particular. Despite this, the current Darfur security situation is better, compared to previous years, he said.

The paper also reports that Darfur IDPs have called on the hybrid troops to protect them from repeated attacks. Abu Shouk camp's (North Darfur) tribal chief Hussein Ishaq Sajo told Miraya FM they met UNAMID's DJSR yesterday to request protection from repeated attacks.

GoSS VP: illegal arms collection necessary

Al-Khartoum reports GoSS VP Riak Machar said unlawful arms collection is peace process's major achievement in southern Sudan. Addressing celebrations of the International Day of Peace organized by the Peace Commission in collaboration with UNMIS, Machar said GoSS would do its utmost to make disarmament a success.

Commentary

Ashraf Qazi is model victory for US psychological terror

By Qutbi Al-Mahdi

Al-Intibaha daily Arabic newspaper

It seems America's psychological tactic at last worked with Mr. Ashraf Qazi, the Special Representative of the Secretary General in the Sudan.

Unlike neo-imperialist international servants, sent to Sudan to advance conspiratorial plans, Mr. Ashraf Qazi has been doing his duty in complete professionalism and in rare neutrality. Americans have been monitoring, with uneasiness and displeasure, Qazi's performance who has never condemned Sudan, for a reason or not, since taking over his job. When Abyei area incidents occurred recently, they were angry and attacked Qazi, charged him and criticized him for failing to come to the rescue of SPLA which was seen as collusion with GoS and also for failing to protect civilians. Stunned by the attack against him, he has defended himself by explaining that it was not part of his mandate, and as an observer, he has no mandate to intervene militarily to assist one party against the other, not even has the capacity to do that.

Apparently, the American tactic had its effect on the man. He began contemplating the fate awaiting him, his career, job and professional image in the so-called International Community.

He moved, and reacted to the criticism when the first chance looms, that is when Khalil's JEM mercenaries attacked Omdurman. He openly condemned GoS. It was strange interference as he has nothing to do with the matter and does not at all fall within his jurisdiction. They must have told him "bravo". They want him not to forget the role he is needed to play.

In order to be assured that his image was improving in the minds of his critics, Mr. Qazi has been waiting anxiously for a new chance to prove his loyalty and allegiance. He took us by surprise when he calls for postponement of elections, setting his own new schedule, which he claims appropriate.

Yes, he wants to say that it is not the jurisdiction of the sovereign state's institutions which handle elections, nor the jurisdiction of the CPA for which he has been made guardianship or the jurisdiction of the constitution, it is his own mandate.

All this is just because an SPLM official thought that elections should be postponed because of rainy season. Oh, poor Ashraf Qazi.

At first rebuke from Americans, the man has sacrificed his probity and professionalism. He got into action to prove his allegiance to keep his job. This is not only Qazi's tragedy; it is the tragedy of an entire regime that has been controlling destinies of nations in the name of International Community and to maintain peace and justice.

Mr. Qazi's model is, however, different. If other personalities who came here fully knew their role and carried them out as they are required to do, Mr. Qazi came with the innocent belief that his peacekeeping role is real not a joke, but soon he has discovered that he is needed to do something else, so it was this tragedy: the victory of psychological war and terror over integrity, honesty, morals and professionalism.

Websites/International News Coverage

Global leadership more vital than ever to solve today's crises – Ban

(UN News Centre) 23 September 2008 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today opened the General Assembly's annual high-level debate by urging world leaders to rise to the "challenge of global leadership" and work together to solve the most pressing and intractable problems, from climate change and the energy crisis to entrenched poverty and the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region.

In these two weeks when world leaders flock to the UN, Mr. Ban meets presidents and prime ministers, kings and king-makers – he cajoles, exhorts and advocates tirelessly. He is armed with the power of persuasion, moral authority and a document that is his Magna Carta, the UN Charter.

"Our challenges are increasingly those of collaboration rather than confrontation," Mr. Ban declared in a wide-ranging speech before dozens of heads of State and government gathered at UN Headquarters in New York. "Nations can no longer protect their interests, or advance the well-being of their people, without the partnership of the rest."

But he warned there were signs that many leaders and countries were unwilling to take up the mantle of doing more, not less, to help those around the world who need support, despite the scale of some of the crises.

"I see a danger of nations looking more inward, rather than towards a shared future. I see a danger of retreating from the progress we have made, particularly in the realm of development and more equitably sharing the fruits of global growth."

As new centres of power and leadership are emerging in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere in the newly developed world, "we are on the eve of a great transition," he said.

Wise leadership, Mr. Ban said, is vital if the world is to regain the momentum on climate change produced by negotiations in Bali last year, combat malaria and HIV/AIDS or ensure that human rights are upheld and the principle of "responsibility to protect" is extended to all vulnerable populations.

"It takes leadership to honour our pledges and our promises in the face of fiscal constraints and political opposition. It takes leadership to commit our soldiers to a cause of peace in faraway places.

"It takes leadership to speak out for justice; to act on climate change despite powerful voices

against you; to stand against protectionism and make trade concessions, even in our enlightened self-interest. Yet... that is why we are here.”

On Thursday, world leaders will discuss how to accelerate progress towards the eight globally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which aim to slash a host of social and economic ills – by their target date of 2015.

Mr. Ban said leaders should be “bold and specific” in spelling out what they will do to achieve the MDGs, given that his most recent report on the issue shows that sub-Saharan Africa is especially lagging in the race to meet the Goals.

“We must galvanize global awareness and global action, with a special focus on Africa. As you know, progress has been uneven. Pledges have not been fully honoured. Yet we have achieved enough to know the Goals are within reach.”

Mr. Ban stressed that the UN was at the forefront of international efforts to resolve or reduce all of the world’s biggest problems.

“The United Nations is the champion of the most vulnerable. When disaster strikes, we act,” he said, citing the recent series of deadly hurricanes in Haiti and the wider Caribbean, relief efforts in Myanmar in the wake of Cyclone Nargis and ongoing aid operations in the Horn of Africa, where millions of people have been hit by drought.

The Organization led the way this year on responding to the global food crisis, he added, establishing a task force to devise long-term solutions and at the same time ensuring that seeds and fertilizers reach the hands of small farmers in struggling countries.

In addition, the power of the UN’s good offices has been put to diplomatic use, bearing fruit already in Nepal and Kenya and helping to defuse other conflicts and crises, such as in Cyprus, Côte d’Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

The Secretary-General’s appeal for global leadership echoed one of the key themes of the recent meeting of top UN aides in Turin, Italy, where he noted that the UN is being sought out more than ever before to deal with the world’s biggest problems. “We can no longer do business as usual,” in his words.

He has reiterated that if the UN is to carry out its mandated tasks, it needs to be given the necessary resources – especially in peacekeeping operations. And, above all, he has made internal reform of the Organization a personal priority.

The Secretary-General, who is holding bilateral discussions with numerous world leaders on the sidelines of the Assembly general debate this week, flagged that in the weeks ahead he will seek their support for a new human resources framework at the UN.

“We need to replace our current system of contracts and conditions of service. It is dysfunctional. It is demoralizing. It discourages mobility between UN departments and the field. It promotes stagnation, rather than creativity. It undercuts our most precious resource – the global, dedicated corps of international civil servants that is the backbone of the UN.”

Sudan troops surround kidnappers' desert hideout

Agence France-Presse (24/9/08) -- Sudanese forces on Wednesday surrounded bandits and

their 19 captives, including European tourists, snatched in the Egyptian desert five days ago, but said they had "no intention of storming the area."

An Egyptian tourism ministry official said the situation for the 11 foreigners and eight Egyptians was unchanged on Wednesday, after Sudan said it had pinpointed the group and that its forces "are besieging the area."

Amid confusion over the kidnapers' identity, an Egyptian security official told AFP on Wednesday they were "most likely Chadian" after Sudan said they were Egyptian nationals. Sudan has said the group is being held 25 kilometres (17 miles) inside Sudanese territory at Jebel Uweinat, a mountain range that straddles the border area.

The desert plateau is famous for prehistoric cave paintings, including the "Cave of the Swimmers" featured in the 1996 film "The English Patient."

Several elderly travellers, some in their 70s, are among the group of five Italians, five Germans and a Romanian being held in the desert. Egypt's tourism ministry has stressed that "this is an act of banditry not of terrorism."

Egypt has denied reports the kidnapers threatened to kill the hostages if any rescue attempt were made. Germany, which Egypt says is negotiating with the kidnapers, has not commented on its role beyond saying that it has set up a crisis group. Egypt has sent a team to Sudan to try to secure the release of the hostages, who are reportedly being held for a ransom of up to \$15 million. .

"They are now in an area of no-man's land between the Sudanese, Libyan and Egyptian border, in the area of Jebel Uweinat," Sudanese foreign ministry undersecretary Mutrief Sadiq told journalists in Khartoum yesterday. "Their position has been pinpointed and there is coordination between Sudan and Egyptian authorities in this regard. From our point of view the security of the hostages is the absolute priority -- we do not want an operation that harms hostages."

Ali Yousuf, another Sudanese official, told Egypt's official **MENA** agency that the group was being held 25 kilometres (17 miles) inside Sudanese territory. He told Sudan's official news agency SUNA that available information suggested the kidnapers "are Egyptian nationals." He said Sudanese forces were besieging the area but had no intention of storming it, he added.

Blinding eye disease severe threat in Sudan -study

LONDON, Sept 24 (**Reuters**) - At least one person in nearly every household in a part of southern Sudan had signs of trachoma, one of the highest rates ever recorded for the blinding eye disease, researchers said on Wednesday.

The findings among villagers in Ayod County in the oil-rich area of Jonglei State east of the river Nile highlight the urgent need for antibiotics and corrective surgery to tackle the condition -- the world's leading cause of preventable blindness, the researchers said.

"Communities in Ayod are in urgent need of interventions to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem," Jonathan King of the U.S. Carter Center in Atlanta and his colleagues wrote in the journal PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

"Active trachoma in Ayod is among the highest reported globally."

The World Health Organization estimates that six million people worldwide are blind due to trachoma and more than 150 million people, mostly rural poor in developing nations, need

treatment.

The researchers did not look at the reason for the high rates but noted civil war has degraded local health services and contributed to a lack of water and sanitation in villages where trachoma and other tropical diseases proliferate. "Increasing access to improved water sources may not only improve hygiene but also reduce the spread of guinea worm and other water borne diseases," the researchers said.

The researchers examined 2,335 people from 392 households living in 20 villages of Ayod County where 1 in 3 households had a person with severe blinding trachoma.

"Including Ayod, surveys in 12 other areas in Southern Sudan have consistently demonstrated the unreasonably high burden of trachoma," the researchers said.

Woman and 3 girls disappear from Darfur IDPs camps

(Sudan Tribune) September 23, 2008 (ALFASHER) — A Bangladeshi police unit serving with UNAMID discovered on Saturday last that three girls from Kalma IDP camp disappeared during a trip from the camp to their farm. Another disappearance is reported in a separate incident in West Darfur, where a Darfuri woman working for International Medical Corps was arrested by National Security Police on Sept. 6 for possessing a phone number of an opposition political party.

The woman's father spoke with National Security Police on Sept. 14, but they refused to release her, telling him later that day that she had escaped from their custody. The incident was reported to a UNAMID patrol by a teacher in EI-Riyadh IDP camp.

On Sunday, UNAMID also learned that three suspected Janjaweed militia members stole 40 goats at Fatta Burno IDP Camp in North Darfur. One Fatta Burno resident was shot in the leg and evacuated to Kutum Hospital by local residents.

Rebel JEM ready to discuss Qatari initiative on Darfur

(Sudan Tribune) September 23, 2008 (LONDON) — JEM has expressed readiness to meet Qatari officials soon to discuss a peace initiative launched by the Gulf Emirate to host peace talks on Darfur conflict.

JEM Legislative Council Speaker EI-Tahir Adam EI-Faki praised Qatari efforts to settle the conflict, but rejected any interference by the Arab League (AL) in the Qatari proposal on grounds that the AL had shown its support for the Government of Sudan and had denied the existence of a Darfur crisis.

Unidentified white chopper flies over Darfur villages - UNAMID

(ST) Sudan Tribune (23/9/08) — A white helicopter minus UN emblem or any identifiable markings was seen Monday flying over a southern area of North Darfur state, where the majority of villages are controlled by the rebel SLA faction led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur.

The helicopter appears to have been scouting an area southeast of Kabkabiya. According to UNAMID, it flew over the eastern part of Sortoni UNAMID Base Camp, then up to Samra, Bessi and Aramba villages.

The helicopter came from east of UNAMID Sortoni Base Camp and flew back towards the east where it had come from. About 40 minutes later, the same flight came back from the same direction, flew over Tui village and continued towards Kabkabiya.

Eastern Equatoria speaker cites gender for her impeachment

(**SudanTribune**), BOR TOWN, (23/9/08) – Speaker of Eastern Equatoria State Assembly dismissed charges that caused her impeachment but says "our societies are not ready for women leadership." Sabina Dario Speaker Sabina Dario rejected charges at a press conference in Juba last week and vowed not to listen to the voices calling for her resignation. "There was a threat that by Monday I must resign but I told them that I will not," Dario told reporters.

The Eastern Equatoria Assembly accuses Speaker Dario of ordering that MPs be searched for pistols, of signing financial documents without authorization and of down-playing "money-laundering" at the assembly. She denied all charges as baseless.

New Zealand to prolong role in Sudan peacekeeping

New Zealand government website (22/9/08) -- Prime Minister Helen Clark announced today that New Zealand's commitment to UNMIS is to be extended for another year, to 1 October 2009. "The UN Mission in Sudan is a major peacekeeping operation, critical to preventing a return to the north-south civil war in Sudan, Africa's largest country," Helen Clark said. New Zealand has three Defence Force personnel in UNMIS. "New Zealand is one of 70 countries participating in UNMIS. We have had personnel in Sudan since 2005, and have also contributed more than 12m dollars towards humanitarian relief in Sudan since 2004, through NZAID," Helen Clark said.

The extension of the deployment of one staff officer and two military observers for one year will cost an estimated 444,000 dollars.

Al-Bashir to lead delegation to Ghana summit on 1 October

Suna website (22/9/08) -- President al-Bashir is to lead Sudan's delegation to the 6th Summit conference of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, scheduled to be held in the Ghanaian capital of Accra on 1-3 October. The summit will be preceded by the experts meeting and the ministerial council which will be held on 29 September. Meanwhile, ACP Secretary General Sir John Kaputin is to arrive in Khartoum Wednesday [24 September] on a three-day visit to Sudan to brief the President, who is Chairman of the current ACP session, on the agenda of Accra Summit.

Sudanese police arrest 12 suspects accused of criminal activities in south

From Nairobi-based, **USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service** (23/9/08) Wau -- Police and security forces in Western Bahr-al-Ghazal say they have arrested 12 people accused of masterminding the waves of recent criminal activity in the state.

The 12 are alleged to be members of a gang that has been terrorizing citizens of Wau at night for months. Police say more gang members remain at large.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service on Monday, Wau police director Major Lino Angui Kur said law enforcement agents first arrested 8 alleged gang members on Sunday after receiving a tip that they had rented a house in Hai Bafra.

The other 4 arrests, including two women, came on Monday after an exchange of gunfire with law enforcement agents.

Major Kur said police recovered a number of stolen goods at the rental house in Hai Bafra, including 9 motorcycles, a number of bed mattresses, stereo systems, televisions, generators, and large quantities of Sudanese pounds.

The 12 accused will make their first court appearance in Wau next week while law enforcement agents continue searching for the remaining gang members.

Commentary

Sudanese communists prepare for fifth convention

(**Sudan Tribune**) KHARTOUM (23/9/08) -- The Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) has finalized preparatory reports and set to determine the date of its fifth congress which would be held 40 years after its last convention.

Founded in 1946, the SCP was a major force in Sudanese politics until 1971, when former president Gaafar al-Nimeiry launched a wave of repression against the party after escaping a foiled coup where some communist officers had been involved.

Since then, the SCP has been led by Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud and plays only a slight role. It advocates a return to democratic rule and separation between religion and politics. In the past the party was targeted by the Sudanese Islamists who considered it as their main political foe.

Shafei Khidir, the head of the preparatory committee for the fifth congress told Sudan Tribune that all the subcommittees charged with the different works for the convention have finalized their papers and they are now distributed to the members of the party.

He also mentioned that the SCP leadership has to determine the date of the congress within two months since the distribution and the discussion of the convention documents by the membership. He said the fifth congress would discuss a new constitution paving the way for a radical change in the SCP's history even though the old guard in the party could be expected to resist such a move.

The envisaged changes would mean that the SCP would no longer be seen as being in the vanguard of the working class but rather would become the party of all the exploited strata in Sudan without distinction.

As to the Sudanese state, the party would reaffirm its commitment to the parliamentary process and call for a collegial and rotational presidency where the different regions should be represented.

Khidir further said the SCP supports the CPA and the fact that southern Sudan should be considered as one entity. As to the rest of the country, the SCP favours return of the former Administrative system with Darfur considered as one administrative unit.

Upheaval on Wall St. Stirs Anger in the UN

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR, New York Times, (23/9/08) UNITED NATIONS — Wall Street and the Bush administration's record of financial oversight came under attack at the United Nations on Tuesday, with one world leader after another saying that market turmoil in the United States threatened the global economy.

"We must not allow the burden of the boundless greed of a few to be shouldered by all," said President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil in an opening speech that reflected the tone of the gathering.

The annual opening of the General Assembly habitually casts a shadow over New York every

September, snarling traffic and tempers. But this year it is New York, or at least Wall Street, projecting its shadow back across the United Nations. Virtually every president or monarch from around the globe made some reference to the financial upheaval, and the looming cloud was also the buzz of the back corridors.

With a pillar of American power — its financial leadership — so badly shaken, there was a certain satisfaction among some of the attendees that the Bush administration, which had long lectured other nations about the benefits of unfettered markets, was now rejecting its own medicine by proposing a major bailout of financial firms.

But there was also serious concern that the United States had not policed its markets carefully enough to prevent the damage to its economy and others, making it much harder to raise money for the world's most vulnerable people.

"The global financial crisis endangers all our work," said the secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, who used his opening remarks at the General Assembly to question the reliance on free markets. "We need a new understanding on business ethics and governance, with more compassion and less uncritical faith in the 'magic' of markets."

President Bush, making his eighth and last address to the United Nations, with which he has had a troubled relationship, sought to reassure world leaders that his administration was taking "bold steps" to stanch the economic crisis in the United States, which, he said, "would have a devastating effect on other economies around the world."

Amid a long ode to the importance of continuing the fight against terrorism, he devoted one paragraph to the rescue plan. "We've promoted stability in the markets by preventing the disorderly failure of major companies," Mr. Bush said. He noted that many were watching how the United States responded because economies were "more closely connected than ever before."

But for some leaders, the Bush bailout plan seemed hypocritical given the tough course Washington has often advised struggling nations to take.

"What you are seeing here is the letting off of some political steam," said Mark Malloch Brown, a British cabinet minister and former senior United Nations official. "They are all remembering the very hard, unforgiving advice that they got from American financial institutions" to "deflate your economy, let your banks go to the wall," he said. "There is a resentment at what they would see as a further evidence of double standards."

The General Assembly has long served as a handy megaphone for American foes like Fidel Castro of Cuba or President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran — who this year delivered his standard diatribe against the evils of America and Zionism. The extraordinary nature of the outpouring on Tuesday, however, was that it came from some of America's closest allies and trading partners — not from those the United States would label political outcasts, but from mainstream countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

President Nicolas Sarkozy of France described the crisis as the worst financial mess since the Depression of the 1930s and the financial system as "insane." He called for a summit meeting in November to determine how to address the problems and to develop greater international regulations of financial markets. Many leaders echoed that latter demand.

Mr. Sarkozy also said that at a news conference he had talked with Wall Street bankers, but

that they claimed not to know who was responsible for the mess. When banks and hedge funds hand out fat bonuses, they are all willing to gloat about their success, Mr. Sarkozy said, “but when there are deficits we don’t know who is responsible.”

During a brief appearance with Pakistan’s new president, Asif Ali Zardari, Mr. Bush acknowledged that world leaders gathering in New York had questioned him about the turmoil and the administration’s response to it, “wondering whether or not the United States has the right plan to deal with this economic crisis.”

The American ambassador to the United Nations, Zalmay Khalilzad, said he was not hearing complaints about the financial crisis at his meetings, and suggested that the world leaders accepted that the United States was facing the issue. “We are very agile and we are moving very quickly to deal with it,” he said.

Mr. Malloch Brown, the British minister, also noted that if the leaders lambasting the United States from the podium consulted with their finance ministers, they would be likely to find them very happy that Washington was planning a huge bailout.

Yet doubts were being raised not just at the United Nations but farther afield, with Germany’s chancellor, Angela Merkel, among the most outspoken. She said that at last year’s meeting of the Group of 8, she had strongly urged both the United States and Britain to be more rigorous in supervising financial activities, and even offered specific proposals to be applied to banks and other institutions.

But the United States was not interested, she said. She also seemed to express a certain exasperation that the United States was now asking Europe for help, after inflicting damage on the rest of the world that could have been avoided.

“We did what we were supposed to do,” she said in an interview with *Münchener Merkur*, a German newspaper. “We adopted a decent E.U. regulation on the national statute books,” but “when it came to it, the Americans said, ‘That’s not for us.’ ”

The theme promoted for this year’s General Assembly is the development of the world’s poorest nations, laid out in eight targets, including universal primary education and the elimination of maternal mortality, known collectively as the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Ban had been hoping that member states would renew their commitment to the tune of \$72 billion annually, and evidently the turmoil in the markets threw that into question. He told a meeting of business executives on the side of the General Assembly that if the United States could promise \$700 billion for Wall Street in one week, then \$72 billion should not be such a stretch.

There was a certain amount of shellshock left from the wave of bad financial news, but African leaders in particular were holding out the importance of continuing aid.

“You cannot but talk about it,” said Elizabeth Ohene, Ghana’s minister of state for education, science and sport, trying to remain optimistic that the huge bailout plan for Wall Street meant there would be plenty of money to go around.

It would be far better to invest in the education of children, she told a luncheon gathering, than to use a bunch of fancy financial engineering to bail out Wall Street and other global financial centers. “Believe me,” she said, “it will be much cheaper.”

Links

Press Conference by President of France Nicolas Sarkozy at UN HQ

http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2008/080923_Sarkozy.doc.htm

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Darfur

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-09_2008/PFUE-23.09.2008/PESC_Darfur

Secretary-General's Op-Eds

Global leadership for global problems. [Op-Ed]. By Ban Ki-moon. *The Miami Herald*.23/09/2008. (AM).

<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-09-23RRGA-7JRGAG>

UN

The U.N. 's secret admirer. [Commentary]. By Stephen Schlesinger. *Los Angeles Times*.23/09/2008. (AM).

<http://unhq-apps-01.un.org/dpi/nmu.nsf/ac/2008-09-23RRGA-7JRH2S>

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