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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

The SEIB must be returned to CIA within 5 working days



Thursday, 4 December 2003

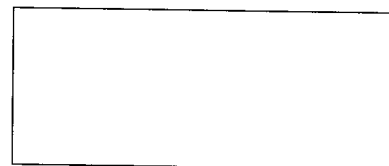
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Regional Notes

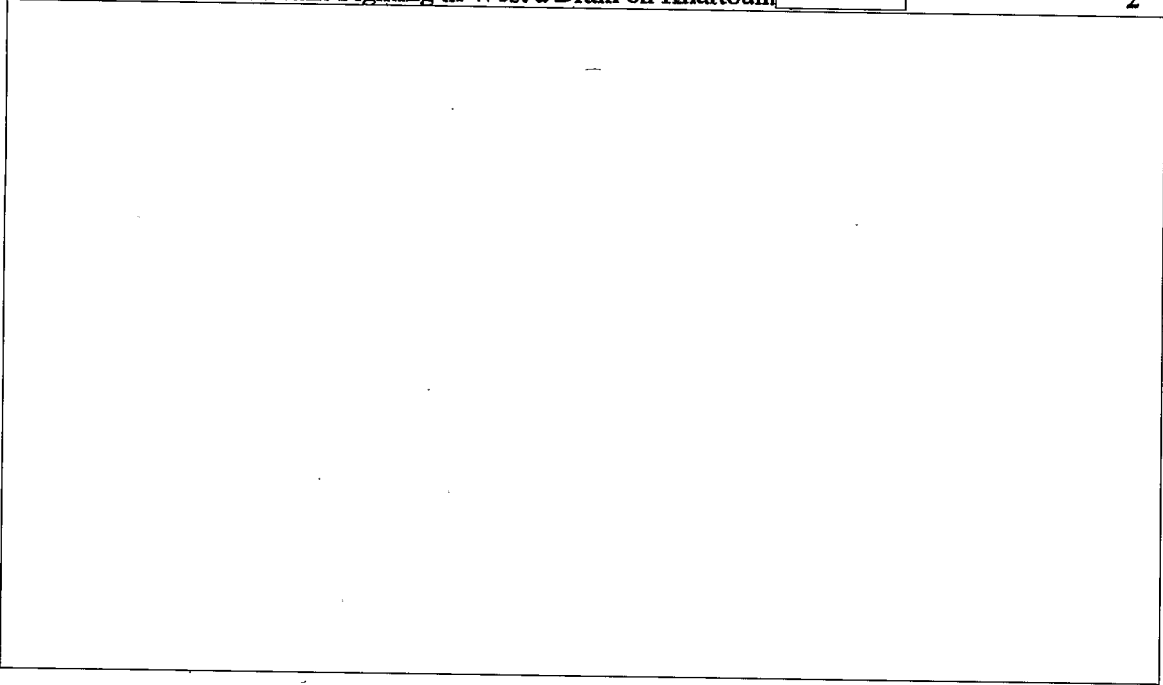
Africa

[Redacted]

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Sudan: Fighting in West a Drain on Khartoum

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4 December 2003

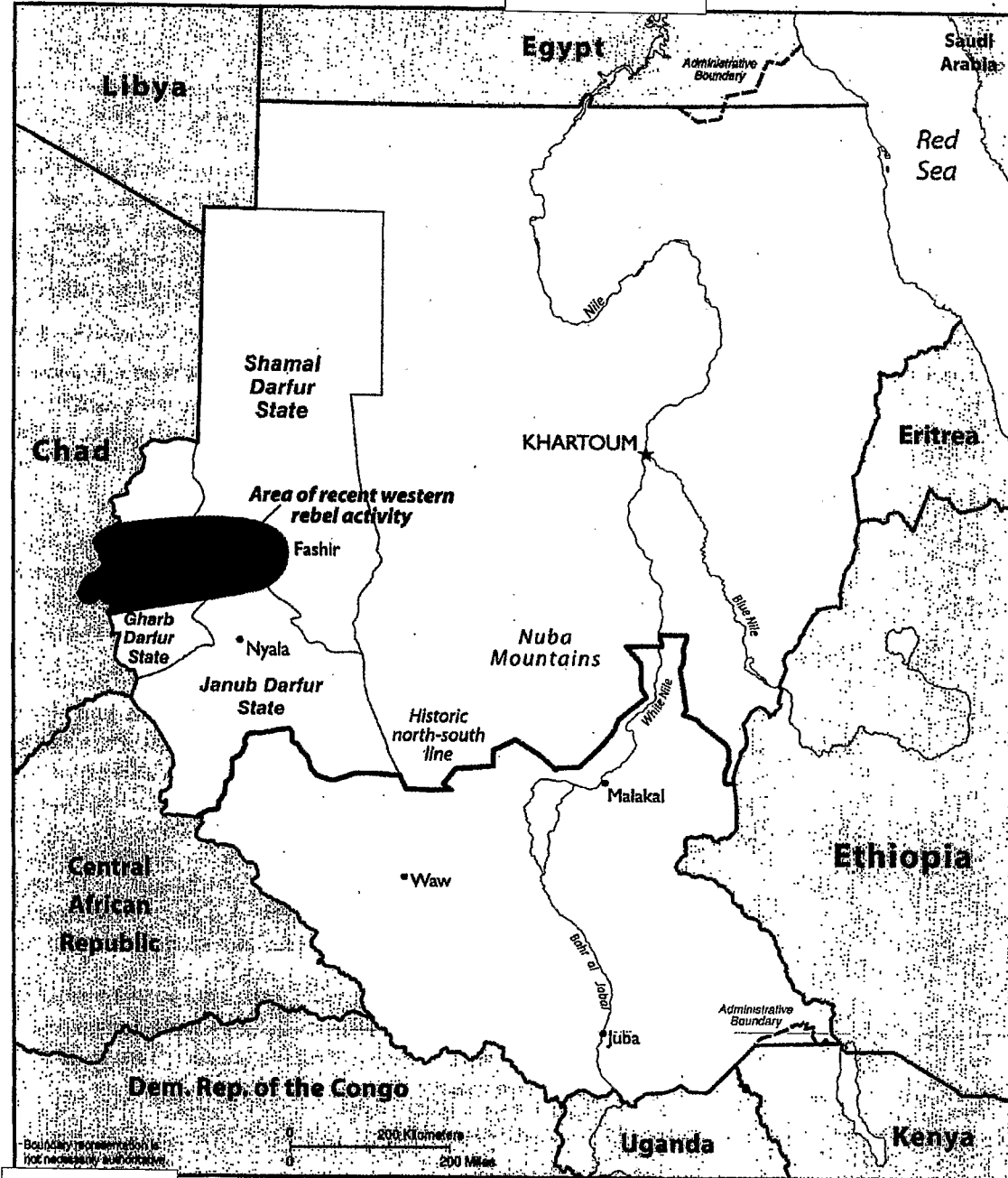
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Sudan: Conflict in the West, December 2003

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4 December 2003

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Sudan:

Fighting in West a Drain on Khartoum [redacted]

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Fighting in the western Darfur region has increased, taxing Khartoum's ability to deal with humanitarian needs in the region. Sudanese aircraft on Monday bombed several villages, killing 47 civilians and wounding 37 others, according to claims by rebel leaders in press reports.

[redacted] government-equipped militias have burned villages, destroyed crops, and poisoned wells.

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— A cease-fire due to expire today was signed by only one of the two Darfur rebel groups and a peace conference arranged by the government for 15 December will include only representatives of local tribes. A rebel group spokesman told the press the cease-fire had been "a waste of time." [redacted]

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The current round of conflict is creating serious humanitarian needs in this long-troubled region. Fighting has internally displaced as many as 600,000 people, and at least 70,000 refugees have fled across the border into Chad, according to press reports. [redacted]

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