

RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00
 DS-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 VC-00
 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 CAC-00 VCE-00
 M-00 NEA-00 NSAE-00 CAEX-00 PA-00 PM-00 PMB-00
 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /001W
 -----F4F2F7 020938Z /38

O R 020441Z MAR 04
 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
 AMEMBASSY ASMARA
 AMEMBASSY BANGUI
 USEU BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
 AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
 NSC WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY OSLO
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
 USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 SECSTATE WASHDC 0257

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 000215

CAPE TOWN FOR A/S CHARLES SNYDER
 DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AF/SPG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/29/2014
 TAGS: PREL, PINS, PHUM, PREF, MOPS, SU, CD
 SUBJECT: THE DARFUR REBELS CALL

REF: A. KHARTOUM 000175 (NOTALL), B. KHARTOUM 000142 (NOTALL)

CLASSIFIED BY: GM GALLUCCI, CHARGE, EXO, STATE.
 REASON: (D), (G)

CLASSIFIED BY: GALLUCCIG, COM, US EMBASSY, DOS.
 REASON: (B), (D)

The following telegram, KHARTOUM 000200, is being repeated
 action to Cape Town for A/S Charles Snyder, info for all
 others and adding classified by information.

Quote:
 P 290408Z FEB 04
 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0238
 INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1135

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0175
RUEHGI/AMEMBASSY BANGUI 0042
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0223
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0135
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0564
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0205
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0255
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 0140
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0184
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0045
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0023
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0053
RUCAACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
B T
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KHARTOUM 000200

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AF/SPG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/28/2009
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PHUM, PREF, MOPS, SU, CD
SUBJECT: THE DARFUR REBELS CALL

REF: A. Khartoum 0175 (notal) B. Khartoum 0142 (notal)

1. (C) Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Spokesperson Hassan Ibrahim "Mandela" called Charge from Northern Darfur on February 28. (Ibrahim may have gotten Charge's number from Darfur leaders we met with last week, ref a.) Charge received call in early evening and Ibrahim said he was calling during a still on-going battle near "Karnei", which he said is some 90 kilometers west of Al Fasher. During call, Ibrahim said that GOS Antonov aircraft were flying overhead and Charge could hear something that may have been a plane. It also seemed that at times during the 20 minute call, Ibrahim was exerting himself in moving from place to place. Ibrahim said he had just spoken with a reporter and the details of the battle he gave Charge track with press reporting of February 29 out of Nairobi.

2. (C) According to Ibrahim, the jenjaweed and regular army forces have been attacking and bombing villages in the Karnei area for the previous two days. Villages were burned and 70 civilians killed. The SLM responding by attacking the government forces on February 28. He claimed that the SLA killed 50 jenjaweed and army while suffering light casualties. Ibrahim accused the government of attempting "genocide" against the Zaghawa tribes of Northern Darfur. He added that the SLM's "policy as a movement" is not to participate in the reconciliation conference called by the government (ref b) because it is solely the government that is responsible for destroying the "social fabric" of Darfur and only the government that need stop. But the SLM does not trust the government to stop its military actions without the monitoring of the international community.

3. (C) Ibrahim said that Darfur needs the involvement of the international community, and especially the U.S., in any true

reconciliation effort. Reconciliation will require U.S. expertise and funding. He also appealed for an international "fact-finding" team to be sent to Darfur to look into "genocide." (Note: Press reports suggest that Ibrahim accuses the GOS of "ethnic cleansing." But the word he used with Charge repeatedly was "genocide." end note.) Ibrahim warned that there could be no real peace in Sudan without peace in Darfur. Continued war in Darfur will threaten even the IGAD peace process. Despite the government's claims, Ibrahim said, the "movement" has not been defeated and it "will not remain calm" while the government is resisting international involvement in settling the Darfur conflict. Rather the SLM will "widen its attacks." He also condemned the government's laying of mines around villages and "passes."

4. (C) Ibrahim reported that the rebels had been speaking to the EU about negotiating a humanitarian ceasefire. He said that the SLM has no preconditions other than involvement of the international community. But, he noted, the government has refused access for the EU. Charge said that we were aware of the EU initiative and supported the effort. He said that he understood the EU is now trying to get the GOS to agree to attend a meeting with the rebels in Chad (on the reasoning that the GOS has said Chad could play a role in negotiations and it is nearby Darfur). The GOS has promised a reply in the next few days. If a meeting could be arranged in Chad, the U.S. would be there too. But Charge said that the EU is also considering meeting the rebels alone in Chad if the GOS continues to balk. (Charge said thinking was that this might be a way to make it clear to the GOS that the international community was not leaving it to Khartoum to determine whether we would get involved in settling the Darfur conflict.) If this was the formula, the U.S. could attend that too. Ibrahim said that the SLM was ready to accept either of these options. They would "try anything" to end the conflict peacefully.

5. (C) Ibrahim suggested that the SLM needed to be a party to the IGAD talks in Kenya. The Charge said that these talks are at a very difficult stage and remain stuck on the issue of Abyei. It would not help the IGAD process to introduce a further issue at this time. However, whatever is decided between the GOS and SPLM at Naivasha in terms of federalism, de-centralization, and power/wealth sharing will be the model to be used for all of Sudan. Therefore, though not present in Kenya, all the marginalized people are there in the presence of the SPLM. The international community also understands that there can be no real peace between north and south while there is war in Darfur. We are therefore pushing for peace process in Darfur at the same time we are working separately to gain an agreement in Naivasha. Ibrahim said that he understood this approach and the SLM would accept it.

6. (C) Before ending the conversation, Charge asked the SLM to continue to allow humanitarian organizations to have access to Darfur's needy persons by not interfering with humanitarian efforts or targeting humanitarian infrastructure. Ibrahim pledged that the SLM will honor this request because the people need all help. He said that rebel forces had attacked trains carrying government supplies but implied they would no longer target the rails themselves.

7. (C) Comment: The Embassy has had lower level contact with the Darfur rebels -- initiated by them -- for several weeks now. Ibrahim's call was probably prompted by Charge's recent efforts to elevate our dialogue with Darfurians in Khartoum and the rebel's evident interest in establishing contact with the American Charge in Khartoum. We will continue such contacts in an effort to learn more about what the rebels want and how it may be possible to bring them into a direct dialogue with a still-reluctant government. We will also continue to share information with the leaders of the EU effort here, the UK ambassador and Dutch Charge. end comment.
Gallucci Unquote Gallucci

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National Security Archive,
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu