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INFO LOG-00 AMAD-00 CCO-00 TEDE-00 SAS-00 /000W
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O 301210Z JUN 04
FM USDEL SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
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USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/01/2009
TAGS: OVIP (POWELL, COLIN L.), PREL, EAID, PREF, PGOV,
PTER, SU

SUBJECT: (U) SECRETARY POWELL'S JUNE 29, 2004, MEETING
WITH SUDANESE PRESIDENT AL-BASHIR

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: DOUGLAS C. GREENE, DEPUTY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, S/ES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. REASON
1.4 (D)

2. (U) JUNE 29, 2004; 2215; KHARTOUM, SUDAN

3. (U) PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.
THE SECRETARY
CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES GERARD GALLUCCI, U.S. EMBASSY, KHARTOUM
USAID ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW NATSIOS

A/S RICHARD BOUCHER, PA
MICHAEL RANNEBERGER, AF/SPG SPECIAL ADVISOR
VADM JAMES METZGER, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN, JCS
ROBERT BEECROFT, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
D. PURNELL DELLY, DCM, U.S. EMBASSY, KHARTOUM (NOTETAKER)

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SUDAN

H.E. OMER HASSAN AL-BASHIR, PRESIDENT OF SUDAN
DR. MUSTAFA OSMAN ISMAIL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
YAHYA HUSSAIN, STATE MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY
MGEN BAKRI HASSAN SALIH, MINISTER OF DEFENSE
MGEN ABDEL-RAHIM M. HUSSEIN, MINISTER OF INTERIOR
IBRAHIM MAHMOUD HAMID, MINISTER OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
AMBASSADOR KHIDIR HARUM, EMBASSY OF SUDAN, WASHINGTON D.C.
AMBASSADOR MOHAMED A.A. EL-KARIB, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAS
DEPARTMENT, SUDAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

4. (C) SUMMARY. ON JUNE 29 SUDANESE PRESIDENT BASHIR TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT RECENT EVENTS IN DARFUR HAD DAMPENED CELEBRATION OF THE RECENT AGREEMENT IN NAIVASHA. HOWEVER, THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN DARFUR WAS STEADILY IMPROVING AND THE SECURITY SITUATION WAS NOW "TOTALLY CONTAINED." THE SECRETARY SAID PRESIDENT BUSH WAS PLEASED WITH EVENTS IN NAIVASHA BUT DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN DARFUR. NORMALIZATION CANNOT PROCEED WITHOUT IMMEDIATE STEPS TO STOP JINJAWEEED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS AND ELIMINATE RED TAPE SLOWING DELIVERY OF RELIEF. IN DARFUR AS IN NAIVASHA, THE U.S. WANTS TO HELP. IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE PUNITIVE. BUT UNLESS SUDAN ACTS IMMEDIATELY ON SECURITY AND RELIEF IN DARFUR, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO RATCHET UP THE PRESSURE. END SUMMARY.

5. (C) PRESIDENT BASHIR SAID RECENT SIGNATURE OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN NAIVASHA WOULD BE CELEBRATED AT REVOLUTION DAY ON JUNE 30. HOWEVER, THE SHOCK OF RECENT EVENTS IN DARFUR HAD DIMINISHED THE SENSE OF JOY. HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PURSUE PEACE IN DARFUR AS HARD AS IT HAD PURSUED PEACE IN NAIVASHA; HOWEVER, ALREADY MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN DARFUR AND THE SITUATION WAS "TOTALLY CONTAINED" NOW. THE MILITIAS WERE NOT OPERATING AND IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS ONLY THE REBELS HAD VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE. THEY HAD OVER THE COURSE OF THE WAR TARGETED 89 POLICE STATIONS IN DARFUR AND AS A RESULT "MILITIA STEPPED IN TO FILL [THE SECURITY] VACUUM." NOW POLICE WERE DEPLOYING TO DARFUR ONCE AGAIN.

6. (C) THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN DARFUR WAS STEADILY IMPROVING, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, AND CONDITIONS FOR IDPS IN CAMPS WERE BETTER THAN IN THEIR VILLAGES.

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VILLAGERS FOUND FOOD AND SERVICES IN THESE CAMPS THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE IN THEIR OWN VILLAGES, AND THUS THE CAMPS WERE BECOMING "TOO ATTRACTIVE."

7. (C) THE SECRETARY SAID PRESIDENT BUSH WAS PLEASED WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. CONGRESSMEN HAD COME TO HIS OFFICE ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND SAID THE U.S. HAD TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFLICT. IT WAS A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE, BUT THE U.S. HAD ENGAGED. THE SECRETARY HIMSELF HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL INVESTMENT IN THE PROCESS, REMINDING PRESIDENT BASHIR THAT HE HAD COME TO NAIVASHA AND SAID, "THIS PROCESS CANNOT FAIL, OR WE ALL FAIL THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN." PRESIDENT BUSH LOOKS FORWARD TO CONCLUSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT AND WELCOMING THE PARTIES TO A CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON. HE WANTS IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS.

8. (C) BUT THAT CANNOT HAPPEN UNTIL DARFUR IS SECURE AND RELIEF IS FLOWING. THE SITUATION IN DARFUR IS NOT "CONTAINED." THAT IS THE JUDGMENT NOT ONLY OF THE U.S., BUT UNSYG KOFI ANNAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE PRESIDENT IS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY PROSPECTS FOR A HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN DARFUR. TO AVERT CATASTROPHE, SECURITY MUST BE RESTORED SO JINJAWEE NO LONGER COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS. WE ARE ALSO TELLING THE REBELS THAT SUCH VIOLENCE IS UNACCEPTABLE. BARRIERS MUST BE ELIMINATED TO DELIVERY OF RELIEF AND VISAS FOR RELIEF WORKERS. IT IS IN SUDAN'S INTEREST TO SHOW IT IS MORE CONCERNED THAN WE ARE ABOUT SECURITY AND RELIEF DELIVERY. THE U.S. MUST ALSO SEE FULL COOPERATION WITH AU MONITORING. THERE MUST ALSO BE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

9. (C) PRESIDENT BUSH HAS DISCUSSED DARFUR WITH THE EU, G-8, AND NATO ALLIES. THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD BEEN IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH UNSYG KOFI ANNAN, WHO IS ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED. THERE MUST BE IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT IN DARFUR OR IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION LIKE A UNSC RESOLUTION. PRESIDENT BUSH DOES NOT WANT TO DO THIS. BUT PEACE MUST NOT ONLY INCLUDE THE SOUTH. AMBASSADOR DANFORTH'S SIX POINTS THAT HE SAID WOULD LEAD TO NORMALIZATION WITH THE U.S. INCLUDED ALL OF SUDAN, BUT EVEN IF A NARROW LEGAL INTERPRETATION LIMITED THEM TO THE SOUTH THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD NOT ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO MOVE FORWARD ON NORMALIZATION WITHOUT RESOLUTION OF DARFUR. THE U.S. WANTS TO HELP. IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE PUNITIVE. TO THE \$116 MILLION ALREADY COMMITTED FOR DARFUR THE CONGRESS HAS JUST ADDED \$95 MILLION IN A DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL. BUT SUDAN MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO ADDRESS DARFUR, OR THE

10. (C) PRESIDENT BASHIR SAID SUDAN WAS NOT PERFECT, BUT REITERATED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AT ALL OF ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST CIVILIANS OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS EXCEPTING THE REBELS. (COMMENT: AT THIS POINT THE FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVENED TO POINT OUT MILITIA VIOLENCE WAS CONTINUING IN SOME AREAS.) HOWEVER, SUDAN MUST ELIMINATE ALL OBSTACLES TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND WOULD DEAL HEAD ON WITH ANY REMAINING ONES. EVERYTHING POSSIBLE MUST BE DONE TO DELIVER RELIEF BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY DARFURIANS ARE ALL SUDANESE CITIZENS.

11. (C) USAID ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS ECHOED THE SECRETARY THAT THE U.S. WANTS A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AND DOES NOT WANT TO DELIVER BAD NEWS. BUT ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO SIX VILLAGES WERE BURNED. LAST WEEK 14 YEAR OLD GIRLS WERE WHIPPED AND RAPED. GOS SOLDIERS SHOT AT A RELIEF CONVOY LAST WEEK. THESE INCIDENTS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES. ACUTE MALNUTRITION WAS AT A RATE OF 10 PERCENT AND GLOBAL MALNUTRITION WAS AT FAMINE RATE. PEOPLE WERE DYING IN CAMPS. CHILDREN WERE DYING OF MALARIA, MEASLES, AND DIARRHEA.

12. (C) THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID INCIDENTS OF RAPE AND OTHER VIOLENCE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO HIM IMMEDIATELY AND THEY WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. HE ALSO SAID THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WAS TELLING SUDAN THAT THERE WERE NO EPIDEMICS IN DARFUR BY UN STANDARDS. THE HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS MINISTER SAID THE VACCINATION RATE IN DARFUR WAS BETTER THAN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, BUT THAT MALARIA MIGHT BECOME A PROBLEM DURING THE RAINY SEASON AS IT WOULD ACROSS THE REST OF SUDAN. MALNUTRITION RATES WERE HIGHER IN REGIONS OUTSIDE DARFUR.

13. (C) ACCESS HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY IN DARFUR BY UN MEASURES, SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER. SUDAN HAD ADOPTED A FAST TRACK SYSTEM FOR RELIEF DELIVERY THAT INCLUDED PRECLEARANCE FOR MAJOR FOOD SHIPMENTS BEFORE THEY EVEN REACHED PORT SUDAN. WHILE THERE WERE "PRACTICAL PROBLEMS" IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SYSTEM AND PROBLEMS MIGHT LINGER FOR SMALLER NGOS, MAJOR ACCESS AND DELIVERY ISSUES WERE IMPROVING. THE MAIN PROBLEM NOW WAS REBEL ATTACKS ON DELIVERIES AND WORKERS; IN NORTH DARFUR THERE HAD BEEN 40 SUCH ATTACKS. SUDAN NEEDED TO IMPROVE ITS STORAGE CAPACITY, AND DELIVERY WOULD BENEFIT IF SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED ON SPARE PARTS FOR SUDAN'S TRAINS.

14. (C) BASHIR ADDED IT WAS HARD TO EXPECT CRIME COULD BE ELIMINATED IN DARFUR (COMMENT: THE GOS ATTRIBUTES MUCH

JINJAWEEED VIOLENCE TO "ARMED BANDITS.") DARFUR IS A VAST AREA. CRIME HAPPENS IN KHARTOUM TOO. IF THERE ARE CRIMES "HERE AND THERE" IT DOES NOT MEAN THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF SECURITY. IT SHOULD NOT LEAD TO CHARACTERIZATION OF DARFUR AS A MAJOR HUMANITARIAN DISASTER.

15. (C) THE INTERIOR MINISTER THEN LAID OUT THE FIVE MAJOR ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN FOR DARFUR: FIRST, FULL COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF ALL CITIZENS, WHICH INCLUDES DISARMING OF MILITIAS; SECOND, ACCESS TO ALL DARFURIANS IN NEED; THIRD, A PLAN FOR IDPS TO RETURN VOLUNTARILY TO THEIR VILLAGES; FOURTH, A "FACT-FINDING MISSION" TO APPLY PUNITIVE ACTIONS TO CRIMINALS AND COMPENSATION TO THOSE AFFECTED BY CRIMINAL ACTS AND DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE TO ALL AREAS; FIFTH, THE CONVENING OF A NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE ALL OPPOSITION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SUDAN TO REACH A POLITICAL SOLUTION. SUDAN WELCOMES SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES.

16. (C) THE INTERIOR MINISTER ADDED THAT ALREADY SUDAN HAS DEPLOYED POLICE AND MILITARY TO IDP CAMPS TO PROVIDE SECURITY. SUDAN IS ALSO WORKING WITH "VARIOUS PARTIES" TO DEVELOP ITS VOLUNTARY RETURN PLAN FOR IDPS. IN EACH OF DARFUR'S THREE STATES AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND FORCES ARE ALREADY DEPLOYING TO SECURE THEM. TRIBAL LEADERS ARE BEING SHOWN THESE AREAS SO THEY WILL APPRECIATE THE LEVEL OF SECURITY AWAITING RETURNING IDPS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEN SUPPLY THREE MONTHS OF FOOD TO THESE AREAS FOR RETURNEES. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO WORKING HARD WITH THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TO GIVE RETURNEES SEED FOR PLANTING, AND HELP THEM DEVELOP THE MEANS FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION.

17. (C) RETURNING TO A THEME HE HAD RAISED IN HIS OWN MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY (SEPTTEL), THE FOREIGN MINISTER URGED THE U.S. TO BEGIN WORKING IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS GOVERNMENT ON A JOINT APPROACH TO DARFUR. HE SAID FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TAHA WOULD BE FLYING WITH THE SECRETARY TO DARFUR ON JUNE 30 AND COULD DISCUSS SUCH AN APPROACH WITH THE SECRETARY ON THE PLANE. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT HIS TEAM WOULD MEET WITH GOS OFFICIALS TO LAY OUT IN MORE DETAIL THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS THE US WANTS THE GOS TO TAKE. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

POWELL

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