

RELEASE IN PART
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 3:15 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Sudan Update

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 12/31/2015 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
~ Declassify on: 10/23/2026

From: Lyman, Princeton N
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 01:37 AM
To: S_SpecialAssistants; S_SESFrontOffice
Cc: D(B); D(B)-AF-IO Duty Officer6; Carson, Johnnie; P; Thomas-Jensen, Colin; 'Brooke_D_Anderson'; [redacted]
[redacted] 'Grant_T_Harris'; [redacted]
'Denis_R_McDonough'; [redacted] Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Sudan Update

B6

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Dear Madame Secretary:

I have just returned from South Sudan and Sudan. The situation in the border states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile (the Two Areas) remains precarious with ongoing fighting and no near prospects of political talks. A potential humanitarian crisis is looming there that will pose serious political choices for us and our allies.

[redacted]

Meanwhile the economic situation in Sudan is becoming serious as foreign exchange earnings are down, the Sudanese pound is depreciating, and prices are rising. Small sporadic demonstrations about economic hardships have taken place, though not posing yet any serious political threat.

The Two Areas. Fighting in Southern Kordofan has quieted somewhat as the GOS focuses on a renewed offensive in Blue Nile.

[redacted]
Reports of serious food shortages in both the Two Areas and estimates of several hundred thousand people displaced creates fear of a colossal humanitarian disaster in the near future. The GOS has however allowed no international agency to reach the areas under SPLA control where most of the danger exists. Pressure is growing for initiating a cross-border assistance program without approval of the GOS. But the GOS has threatened strong retaliation, against NGOs operating elsewhere in Sudan such as Darfur, and even closing embassies if this happens.

[redacted] Nevertheless, we are doing contingency planning should this be the only way to avoid disaster. I have pressed the GOS on the need for it to open access to an international humanitarian agency and warned them of this growing pressure for cross-border aid. I have enlisted the Africa Union, the Government of Qatar, and our European allies all to press the GOS on this matter.

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

Darfur. More promising the GOS will launch its new peace agreement this week with the small Liberty and Justice Movement (LJM). While most armed groups in Darfur have not signed on to this agreement, it will test the readiness of the GOS to make significant progress on reconciliation, compensation to victims, and other steps toward peace. Qatar has staked much on this agreement which was negotiated in Doha. The Qatari Deputy Prime Minister is accompanying the LJM leader on his initial post-agreement tour in Darfur, and Qatar is putting up significant sums to finance the agreement.

[REDACTED] We have urged the armed movements to put far more emphasis on a political platform for negotiation and will host a workshop on Darfur in November to which the LJM and the other armed groups are expected to participate.

[REDACTED]

He asked for a written copy of all my remarks in the meeting on US policy in Sudan, which I presume he will distribute to other officials.

Next steps. We will be facing several weeks of more fighting in the Two Areas, and slow progress on north-south issues as both countries assess their policies and each other's strengths, and as anti-government fighters test their ability to provoke an "Arab Spring" in Sudan and topple the Bashir regime.

SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.