

IMF cuts off economic aid to Sudan, American ally in Africa

by Thierry Lalevée

Between Feb. 17 and Feb. 20, relations between Sudan and the United States went from "bad" to "deteriorating rapidly" to . . . "excellent." What happened?

On Feb. 17, a *Washington Post* article announced that because of Sudan's violations of human rights and economic mismanagement, the United States had cut \$114 million in economic aid under the Economic Support Fund program. The announcement caused a furor, forcing the State Department to release a statement to the effect that "relations between the United States and Sudan are excellent" and "most of our assistance activities are continuing without any interruption." The \$114 million, however, is still "frozen," according to the State Department Sudan desk, until the Numeiry government accedes to the loan requirements of the International Monetary Fund, the so-called "reform program" which includes the cutting of food and fuel subsidies to the Sudanese population.

The announcement of the frozen monies came just before a scheduled visit to Sudan by Vice-President George Bush on March 3, on the first leg of an African trip leading him to Niger and Mali, too. It was under pressure from the White House that the State Department was forced to issue its disclaimer that relations between Sudan and Washington are "excellent."

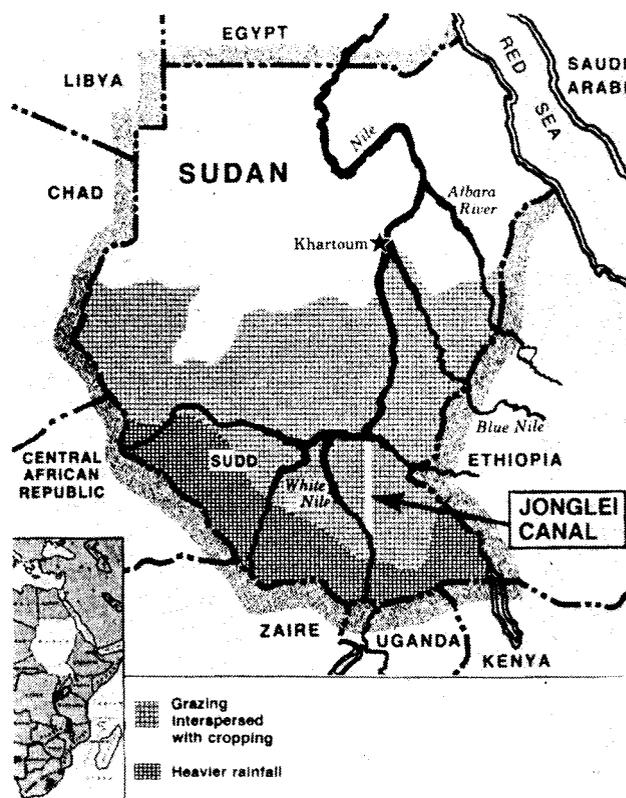
But the reality remains: George Shultz's State Department and international "Dope, Inc." elements, now attempting to pull coups and impose dictatorships of "cocaine colonels" in Ibero-American nations to allow the International Monetary Fund to impose the austerity that is destroying those nations, is undertaking the same against African nations.

Islamic law and the IMF

Continuing human rights violations in Sudan, in particular the Jan. 16 hanging of moderate opposition leader Mohammed Taha, were used as a justification by the State Department in its Feb. 18 statement confirming the cut-off of some \$200 million in aid. But the argument does not stand up. The State Department had informed the Sudanese that aid would be cut *last December*.

There is also Numeiry's insane imposition of Islamic law in September 1983 and the subsequent public floggings and cutting off of hands.

But there is little doubt that the imposition of Islamic law was encouraged by Sudan's creditors—in particular, the IMF



The proposed construction of the Jonglei Canal in Sudan could make the deserts of Africa bloom, but the IMF and the State Department are determined to prevent it.

and the World Bank. What better way to impose IMF austerity on the Sudanese population? And since Islamic law was imposed, the Sudanese pound has been devalued endlessly and subsidies for basic commodities removed step by step. But for the growing flow of Ethiopian and Chadian refugees fleeing drought-ridden areas and creating a vast new burden on Sudan's economy, Numeiry might have gone on meeting IMF demands for a while longer.

The IMF and State Department bureaucrats have been perfectly aware of such developments. They have also known that many essential development projects in Sudan have been halted at the instigation of such institutions as Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund. Especially important is the Jonglei Canal, crucial to the future of Sudanese agriculture. The World Wildlife Fund argued that it would destroy a certain

precious species of mosquito!

The project received no international credit. Sudan, the potential breadbasket of Africa with enough arable land to feed much of the Middle East as well, was deliberately kept underdeveloped.

Kissinger and the drug mafia

The actual reasons behind the State Department's attempt to cut off aid are now clear: Its policy is to force Sudan into the arms of Libya and the Soviet Union.

Within 48 hours of State's aid-cutoff announcement, the Libyan news agency JANA ran a declaration by Muammar Qaddafi proclaiming himself "deeply disgusted with American attempts to interfere in the religious beliefs of the Sudanese Muslim people. Libya . . . will pay the cost, no matter how much the financial burden."

However, it turns out that back in December, when the State Department first revealed its decision, Khartoum began

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a series of negotiations with Tripoli. The first meeting was held in late December in Milan between Sudanese Vice-President Omar al Tayeb and a high Libyan official. Another was held in Paris in late January between the two countries' intelligence chiefs.

At the center of such negotiations, making all necessary arrangements, was Saudi "businessman" Adnan Kashoggi, an oil and arms dealer with business interests throughout Africa, the United States, and Ibero-America.

Kashoggi is one of the rare Middle East friends of the Thurn und Taxis family. His name has been mentioned in connection with everything from the P-2 Freemasonic lodge in Italy to the "Bulgarian connection" in attempts on the life of the Pope. More recently, according to the French weekly *l'Express*, Kashoggi entered into a tourist-resort partnership with two Israelis, Ja'acov Nimrodi, an arms dealer to Khomeini's Iran, and Al Schwimmer, former director of Israel Aircraft known for his arms-for-drugs deals in Ibero-America.

Kashoggi's direct interest is twofold. Last September, Kashoggi's Sygma International, Ltd. signed an agreement with Numeiry giving him a 50% share of all oil exploration and drilling operations in southern Sudan. He thus cheaply purchased a monopoly over Sudan's main future source of foreign earnings.

Last July, at the initiative of Kashoggi, a special intelligence group was set up in Sudan, involving many of his Sygma partners and Miles Copeland, 1950s CIA station chief in Cairo who now lives in Britain and is a member of Kissinger Associates, Inc. The group's supposed purpose is to guarantee Numeiry's personal security and provide intelligence on southern Sudan, the fiefdom of the "Sudanese Popular Liberation Army" rebels, with whom Kashoggi is now negotiating through Libya.

This is where the oil resources are located. It was explored until recently by Chevron Oil Company. Chief advisers to Chevron's Sudanese operations have been Henry Kissinger and his Kissinger Associates. Kissinger's advice to Chevron last year was to stop building a pipe-line between southern Sudan and the Red Sea, and to instead build toward Monbassa in Kenya. Yet, such a pipe-line would require as much work and be nearly as long as one toward the Red Sea. It becomes essential, however, if southern Sudan, with a predominantly Christian animist population, is to become a state separate from the Muslim north!

America's policy

This is the framework in which the State Department sought to drive Numeiry into Qaddafi's hands, in full knowledge that this would lead to the break-up of the country and the creation of an independent entity in the south ruled by Dope, Inc.'s Kashoggi and his partners.

What does this imply about American-Egyptian relations? However short-lived, a Libya-Sudan axis—complementing Libya's relation with Morocco—would realize Qaddafi's dream of controlling all of central Africa, isolating Egypt and in the process destroying President Reagan's Middle East peace efforts. Sensing the danger, President Mubarak was quick to call on the United States to resume economic aid to Sudan, and will certainly discuss the issue when he comes to Washington in March. Egypt's own economic situation is rapidly deteriorating. Cairo can in no way implement the demands of the IMF to cut food and other subsidies.

Meanwhile, the same officials at Foggy Bottom are now questioning America's economic aid to Egypt, since Cairo has not met recent interest payments on its military debts—more than \$450 million this year.

Will Cairo be given the same treatment? What about the other African countries?

When George Bush goes to Sudan, Mali, and Niger, and addresses the U.N.'s March 11 emergency conference on Africa in Geneva, he will be expected to clarify America's African policy. Is it that of the State Department, or is it the "Food for Progress" program of President Reagan which, however limited, represents a step in the right direction? Whatever really happened in Washington policy-making circles between Feb. 17 and Feb. 20, aid to Africa cannot be cut off—unless it be all forms of aid to Qaddafi, Kashoggi, Kissinger, and friends.