

shot down outside Kigali Airport, to ignite the preplanned catastrophe that has thrown this region into the current genocidal war that threatens all of Africa.

Following the UN's lead

From 1990 on, a campaign was undertaken in Belgium to isolate this grouping, especially by a group within the Belgian Socialist Party. So divisive was this struggle, that it threatened to create a government crisis, which merely served to prevent the Belgian government from putting forward any independent initiative. The result was that Belgium simply followed the lead of the United Nations, with disastrous results.

At the time of the assassination of Habyarimana, Belgium had 600 elite paratroopers in Kigali, Rwanda when the rioting and ethnic clashes began. Under United Nations orders, the troops were forbidden to intervene militarily, not even to fire their guns in the air to stop the bloodbath, and suffered serious casualties. This is currently the subject of a parliamentary inquiry, and could lead to yet another government crisis. Some observers suggest that if Belgian troops had had a mandate to intervene militarily, they could have reestablished order and thus averted the catastrophe that followed.

Similarly, Belgium lost credibility in Zaire, as Brussels fell behind a policy of supporting a strictly anti-Mobutu line, at the expense of being able to deal with the unfolding genocidal disaster of both the refugee crisis and the expanding war. This is best reflected in the failure of the so-called "Tindermans plan," named after the former Belgian foreign and prime minister, Leo Tindermans. According to a report in the Belgian daily *La Libre Belgique* on April 4, the plan had the support of French President Jacques Chirac, and within the cabinet of European Union President Jacques Santer. Its purpose was to prevent a widening of the war in the region. The idea was to remove the tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees away from the Rwanda-Zaire border as a means of preventing their becoming a source of provocation that might lead to an attack by the Rwandan and Ugandan armies. Chirac requested Tindermans, as a senior European political figure, to negotiate an agreement with the Zairean government to allow these refugees to resettle much deeper within Zaire. Once away from the border, the International War Crimes Tribunal would be able to separate out any suspected perpetrators of war crimes.

Once again, the Belgian government refused to endorse such an initiative, on the grounds that it would give support to Mobutu. As was feared, it was precisely allegations that the Hutu militias were using the refugee camps, which served as the pretext for an invasion into Zaire of up to 15,000 Ugandan and Rwandan troops.

As of this writing, Belgian political circles have told *EIR* that their government would be ready to support a strong U.S. initiative, especially to save the refugees. Such an initiative would enable the government to overcome partisan resistance.

All Sudanese choose peace, except Garang

by Muriel Mirak Weissbach

In the second half of April, a momentous event is scheduled to take place in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. No one should expect that CNN or any major Western media outlet will cover it, because it flies in the face of the slanders which have been spread by those media against Sudan. Nonetheless, the event will have vast consequences on the future not only of Sudan, but of many neighboring African nations.

On April 21, a definitive Peace Treaty is to be signed, between the government of Gen. Omar al Bashir, and leaders of the rebel forces who had been waging war against the central authorities since 1983. The signing ceremony is to take place just over one year after the two sides signed a Political Charter, outlining the principles on the basis of which a final treaty could be negotiated. At the time of the April 10, 1996 Charter, two leaders of major factions of the rebel forces had signed, Commander Dr. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, chairman of the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) and commander in chief of the South Sudan Independence Army (SSIA), and Commander Kerbino Kuanynin, chairman of the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM/A), Bahr el Ghazal group. Witnesses to the signing included the founder of the SPLAS, Arok Thon Arok. By now, leaders of five factions are part of the peace process, including James Othow Along, SPLM/A-United, Fashoda; Theophilus Ochang, of the Equatoria Defense Force (EDF); Mohamed Haruka Kafi, of the SPLA/M, Nuba Mountains; the Independent Group led by Kuanj Makoi, Arok Thon Arok, Shal Deng, and others; and Lawrence Lual, minister of education of the SPLM. Yet others are expected to join, as well.

The 'ultimate challenge' to Garang

This means, that the only rebel force which is holding out, refusing to join the peace process, is that of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army faction of John Garang. It lays bare the fact, that the continued military and political opposition identified with Garang, has nothing to do with the internal dynamics of the 14-year civil war, but is the expression solely of the commitment, on the part of the British Privy Council and its allies in the United States, to manipulate local forces, like those of Garang, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, to fuel a war, in hopes of breaking up the nation.

As President al Bashir said, in announcing plans to sign the agreement after the Adhha Eid holiday, this peace treaty represents the "ultimate challenge" to Garang and his backers.

The draft treaty, which has been hammered out through a year-long process of negotiation among the parties to the Political Charter, satisfies literally all the demands which those insurgents have *claimed* were behind their rebellion. Were they honest in that claim, they would have no other choice than to join the process, and sign as well.

On April 6, Mohamed Al Amin Khalifa, secretary general of the Supreme Council for Peace which sponsored the talks, held a press conference in Khartoum, to illustrate the main lines of the agreement. Implementing the principles agreed upon in the Political Charter (see *EIR*, Jan. 24, pp. 22-45), the treaty establishes a transitional period of four years, after which a final status will be determined, through a referendum. The transitional period is due to begin as of the establishment of a Coordination Council for the southern states, which make up 10 of the 26 federal states. The Coordination Council will be made up of a chairman, deputy chairman, and 13 coordination ministers, as well as the 10 *walis* of the southern states. The council will be affiliated to the Presidency of the Republic, and will run the affairs of the south in the transition period.

The responsibility of the Coordination Council will be to coordinate between the states and the government, the general supervision of the federal government and of the development process in the south, and the peace process. The priorities during the interim period are reconstruction and development of the economy of the southern part of the country, which has been devastated by the civil war, the repatriation of the refugees and displaced persons back to the region, completion of the establishment of the political institutions in the south, and holding of the referendum. The referendum, as President al Bashir confirmed on April 8, would allow citizens of the south to choose between remaining within the national unity of Sudan, or separating from it.

Power- and wealth-sharing

As for power- and wealth-sharing, which is guaranteed in the Political Charter, the treaty envisions the following: The federal institutions will have authority over questions pertaining to national defense, security, foreign policy, and economic planning, whereas the states will have executive power over agricultural and industrial development, education, health, tourism, internal security, and order. Taxation will be both federal and local, and the revenues will be accordingly allocated. In addition, a national fund will be established for the distribution of federal income, whereby a percentage will be made available to the least developed states and states participating in national projects.

Regarding the questions of religion and related legal regimes, an area of significant debate during the last year, an agreement has been struck whereby Islamic law (*Sharia*) and custom (the prevailing legal norms) will provide the basis for legislation. In addition, as spelled out in the charter, "states may enact legislation complementary to the federal law in matters peculiar to those states." Such fine differentiations

have been considered necessary to satisfy the aspirations of the population, which is multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-lingual. The national language agreed upon in the treaty is Arabic, and the second language is English.

Fundamental freedoms guaranteed

The peace agreement confirms the principles laid out in the charter, that all fundamental freedoms are guaranteed: freedom of expression, movement, belief, thought, press, and organization, as well as all human rights defined in international charters. The Supreme Court is recognized as protector of the constitution, and as mediator in conflicts among institutions. After it has been signed, the treaty itself will be introduced to the National Assembly (the parliament) for ratification as (constitutional) law. This law would be subject to amendment by a majority of two-thirds in the parliament.

Finally, on the military front, a general amnesty is to be declared after the signing. According to the *Dawn* newspaper on April 9, Minister al Khalifa said, there would be a "joint government and rebel military council to oversee the implementation of the cease-fire and coordinate the activities of the government Army and the rebel forces which will remain under their respective commanders for the whole of the four-year interim period," and the "future of the rebel forces will be determined after the interim period."

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