

International Intelligence

IMF, World Bank Make Grab for Sudan's Oil

Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice President of Sudan, who is also President of the government of Southern Sudan, revealed the key features of the peace deal, which revolve around control of Sudan's oil revenues, in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 4. He had met with senior officials in the Bush Administration, and officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, according to the *New Federalist*. Kiir, who replaced John Garang after his death earlier this year, departed from his written statement, to indicate some significant features of the peace deal.

Sudan's oil production is at 350,000 bpd and is expected to increase to 500,000 bpd. For oil produced in the South, which is three-quarters of total oil production for Sudan, a benchmark price was established in consultation with the IMF; originally it was \$30 per barrel and then revised to \$45 per barrel as a result of inflated oil prices. Oil revenues above the benchmark price are put into an Oil Stabilization account supervised by the IMF/WB. Two percent of the revenues below the benchmark price go to the oil-producing states in the South, and the remaining 98% is divided equally, with the National Unity Government of the North getting 49% for its 15 states, and 49% going to the Government of Southern Sudan for its 10 states. The World Bank is to provide transparency for oil revenues.

The World Bank will also control the South's money, to manage its reconstruction. The prime motivation for recent pressure by the industrialized nations, led by the Bush Administration, to force a settlement ending almost a quarter-century of war in Sudan, was to give the banks a way to get their hands on Sudan's growing oil wealth at inflated oil prices. Sudan's foreign debt is \$26 billion, and with "peace" in Sudan, the oil revenues can be used to pay this debt, and at the same time the IMF/WB can "supervise" the banking of the oil revenues themselves.

This deal is still apparently not enough. The First Vice President was informed, dur-

ing his trip to the United States, that sanctions against Sudan would continue.

Rabin Called Messianic Settlers 'a Cancer'

On the tenth anniversary of the murder of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on Nov. 4 published some quotes from Rabin's denunciation of the messianic Gush Emunim settlers.

In 1975 Rabin publicly stated, "The Gush Emunim movement is a cancer in the body of Israeli democracy. Its members are not pioneers, they are extorters."

Again, in his autobiography, *Pikus she-rut* (Service Notebook), published in Hebrew in 1979, Rabin wrote, "Against their basic outlook, which is contrary to Israel's democratic basis, it was necessary to pursue a struggle of ideas that reveals the true significance of the Gush positions and its modes of action. . . . In the name of the Jewish religion, ostensibly, the Gush Emunim people have come to self-disgrace and a low point in Judaism that every sane Jew cannot but condemn in disgust. Few are the cases in Jewish history when a wild bunch like this takes upon itself a mandate in the name of heaven . . . , all in a loathsome guise of love of the land of Israel, and invades the streets crudely to impose fear and terror. . . . I was ashamed for ourselves that we are able to fall so low. . . ."

The rabbis of Gush Emunim, including Israel Lau and Avraham Shapira, led the campaign of incitement against Rabin just prior to his assassination on Nov. 4, 1995.

Ha'aretz writes that Rabin was unique among even Labor Party leaders in denouncing Gush Emunim. In 1975, when Rabin was Prime Minister, he wanted to evacuate a group of Gush Emunim which had illegally occupied Sebastia in the northern West Bank. No one in his government supported his decision, including Shimon Peres of the Labor Party, who at the time went so far as to celebrate Hanukkah with them. Although the settlers were allowed to stay at the time, Rabin for the next two years refused to allow Gush Emunim to establish additional settle-

ments in the occupied territories.

Again in 1994, Rabin wanted to remove the settlement in Hebron after the Baruch Goldstein massacre of Muslim worshippers. He was again discouraged by his colleagues in the Labor Party, including Peres. *Ha'aretz* points out that at the time, Ariel Sharon was leading a campaign of incitement against Rabin, and comments that one of the reasons Sharon had the "courage" to evacuate the Gaza settlements this year, was that "Sharon did not have Sharon in the opposition. Rabin did not have this privilege."

India's Foreign Minister, Natwar Singh, Forced Out

After almost ten days of tensions in New Delhi, India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called in his Foreign Minister Natwar Singh and asked him give up his post on Nov. 6. Natwar Singh, close to the late Indira Gandhi, and a strong advocate of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), however, will remain in the Manmohan Cabinet as a minister without portfolio. For the time being, the Foreign Ministry will be headed by Prime Minister himself.

The crisis that led to Natwar Singh's resignation, seen as a victory for the pro-U.S. faction, has its origin at the United Nations, where the Volcker Committee produced a report on the illegalities involved in the oil-for-food program for Iraq, when it was under sanctions in the 1990s. The report claims that Natwar Singh, convener of the Congress Party's foreign affairs cell, and his son, Jagat Singh, allegedly benefitted from Iraqi crude oil allocated to the Congress Party.

Since an investigation of the charges was under way, Premier Manmohan Singh and a number of Congress Party leaders demanded that Natwar Singh resign. More than the Iraq War, the growing conflict between Iran and the United States has polarized the UPA leadership. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and a number of his Cabinet ministers are keen not to react to the U.S. hostilities towards Iran, and to prioritize India's burgeoning arms and security relations with the United States.