

At one point Natsios said straight out that “John should stop writing this stuff. It is not helpful.” Natsios said that U.S. policy toward Sudan is not “intelligence-driven,” but is driven by concern for what is happening in Darfur.

Natsios’s rebuff of Rice and Prendergast, was somewhat startling to those present who are involved in African policy. Rice and Prendergast, along with Anthony Lake—former National Security Advisor (1993-97)—were the hard core of the anti-Sudan Africa policy grouping which consistently misled President Clinton, until the very end of his two Administrations. In an Oct. 2 *Washington Post* guest column, Rice, Lake, and Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.) issued a bone-chilling demand for military action against Sudan, in the name of fighting genocide. Titled, “We Saved Europeans. Why Not Africans,” the trio referred to the use of force to “save” Kosovo, and called for bombing, blockading Port Sudan, and other actions against Sudan.

At immediate issue is the make-up of an international peacekeeping force in Sudan. What is referred to as a “hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping mission” has been proposed by Kofi Annan, after consultations with the UN Security Council and the African Union (AU). This “hybrid” idea is the latest UN proposal to Khartoum, after the vote in August of Security Council Resolution 1706, authorizing a UN peacekeeping force, that is intended to supercede the current African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). As of late November, it was unclear what kind of UN deployment would be accepted by the government of Sudan, even if the chain of command is run by African military leaders at the top, since Khartoum in the past has rejected any deployment of troops with Chapter VII mandate.

On Nov. 20, Natsios simply stated that Jan. 1 is his deadline for Sudan to agree to a UN plan, or else “Plan B”—which he did not specify—would be the recourse. Whether Natsios’s more conciliatory tone represents a real shift in policy, or reflects the military limitations for a robust military deployment into Darfur, is also unclear. However one should not underestimate the desperation of Dick Cheney’s controllers to start a new war in response to the monetary-financial meltdown now gathering speed. They may have already anticipated the rejection of the UN-AU hybrid force by the Sudan government, and are preparing for some type of Plan B military action against Sudan using the Darfur crisis, and/or the escalating conflict between Sudan and Chad, as the pretext.

Darfur ‘Mini-Summit’

Within 24 hours of the Washington, D.C. policy event—with its undertone of a potential policy shift—Arab and African leaders of the six nations of the region gathered in Libya on Nov. 21 for a “mini-summit,” to agree to work together to resolve the conflict in Darfur “without foreign intervention.” This took place on the eve of a deadline requested by Secretary Annan, for a decision by Khartoum on Nov. 22, of what the

nation’s answer will be on the UN peace-keeping proposal. Annan and Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir spoke on Nov. 23 on the matter, with no resolution.

Attending the conclave in Tripoli were the top leaders of the region: President of Libya, Muammar al-Qaddafi, the host; Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt; Omar Hasan al-Bashir, President of Sudan; Idriss Deby Itno, President of Chad; Isayas Afeweki, President of Eritrea; and François Bozize, President of the Central African Republic.

The attendees issued a five-point Tripoli Declaration, committing to act, “Within the frame of bolstering fraternal relations among the participating countries and in line with the founding law of the African Union and the security charter for the Comessa states [Community of Sahel-Saharan States], and to implement the Tripoli Declaration and agreement signed on February 8, 2006. . . .” The first two points concerned strengthening political and diplomatic ties among the participating countries. Point three called for regular visits among the leaders; in particular, President al-Bashir renewed an invitation to President Idriss Deby Itno to visit Khartoum; and al-Bashir extended an invitation to President Bozize to visit Sudan at the earliest time.

The fourth point states that, “The leader [Quaddafi] and the Presidents agreed to intensify efforts toward achieving reconciliation in Darfur and encouraging all movements in the region to join in the peaceful process there.” The last point of the Tripoli Declaration expressed thanks to President Qaddafi for his efforts.

Nubian Aquifer

Transition to Nuclear Desalination

by Marcia Merry Baker

Speaking on Nov. 20 in Washington, D.C. on U.S. policy intentions for Sudan, U.S. Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios raised the issue of water shortages in the region, and referred to potential use of the Nubian Aquifer. Noting that Libya has installed a \$20 billion system of pumping from the Aquifer to serve its needs, he downplayed the idea that such large sums could be found for use elsewhere. He added that at least the money now going into warfare, could instead fund water projects, if the strife were to end.

In fact, over the past three decades, Lyndon LaRouche

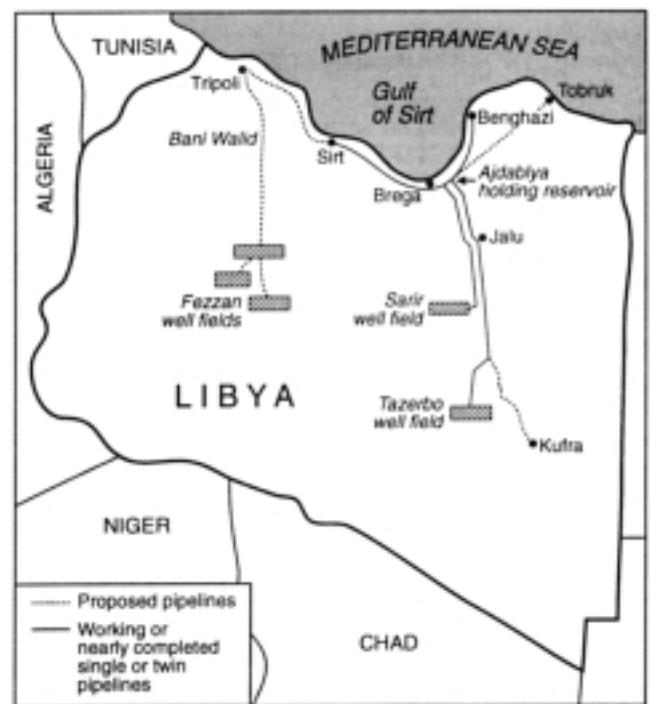
FIGURE 1

The Nubian Sandstone Aquifer



FIGURE 2

Design of Libya's 'Great Man-Made River'



has repeatedly put forward the necessity of an “Oasis Plan” approach to peace, based on the deliberate economic development of the Northeastern Africa/Southwestern Asia desert region. The idea is that fair and high-tech use can be made of the existing scarce water resources of the Nile and Jordan Basins, while new “man-made” natural resources are brought on-line by the siting of nuclear-powered desalination facilities. For example, just 20 nuclear-desalination plants of the modern, ultra-safe design, could *double the entire current annual water volume of the Jordan Basin!*

In 1975, LaRouche, after travelling to Baghdad for meetings with Arab leaders, announced a proposal for an “International Development Bank” for funding just such projects in this region, and other parts of the world. Subsequently, he elaborated IDB specifics for Southwest Asia, which became known as his “Oasis Plan.” In 1980, he circulated this widely in the U.S. Presidential election campaign, in which he was a candidate. In 1990, his policy was submitted to the United Nations, for discussions of the Fourth UN Development Decade. Then, just after the signing of the historic Oslo Accords in September 1993, LaRouche stressed the urgency to get moving on development, issuing a policy statement, “Break Ground Now; Make the Gardens of Jericho Bloom Again!” Instead, the region was again plunged into geopolitical warfare and economic disaster.

Now, the mention of the Nubian Aquifer, in connection with suffering in Darfur, once again throws the spotlight on

the kind of development approach needed on an emergency basis, to build up national economies across the multi-state region as the basis for peace. The immediate geophysical specifics are straightforward.

Figure 1 shows how the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer spreads under a large multi-nation region of northeast Africa, covering parts of Sudan, Egypt, Libya, and Chad. It is the world’s largest fossil-water reserve, and is strategically located near the center of the world’s largest continuous stretch of desert, spanning the Sahara to the Arabian Peninsula.

The locked-in Nubian lake basins underlie more than 2 million square kilometers of land—about 20 times the area of the Great Lakes of North America. There is not yet a definitive “age” of the system, nor historical flowpaths, but the consensus is that these deposits are geo-hydrologically only about 35,000 years young. The immense fossil-water volume is considered equivalent to about 500 years of average discharge of the Nile River.

Isotopic Studies Proposed

Isotopic studies are proposed by the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority and other scientists, to get a refined reading on the geochemistry involved. Deep Aquifer samples can be analyzed. “Because the isotopic description is within the hydrogen-oxygen water molecule itself, samples can be ‘fin-

gerprinted' to understand the mix, flow, origins, and recharge processes," according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Hydrologists have mapped the Nubian Aquifer reserves—including with satellite remote sensing as well as test drills, sufficiently to know that, although it is considered a "closed water system," the Aquifer complex of underground lake basins is so vast, and so little used, that it could easily provide supplies in the interim until nuclear-powered desalted seawater came on line.

"Fossil water is simply not renewable. But this doesn't mean that fossil water should be left under the ground. We need to develop and manage it wisely," is the view of the Director of Groundwater for the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr. Fatma Abdel Rahman Attia.

The Libyan Project

At present, the "Great Man-Made River" project in Libya (Figure 2) pumps water in the desert, and conveys it through a huge underground pipeline to Tripoli and other Mediterranean coastal population centers. In several Western Egypt desert oasis towns, pumping is supplying newly developed settlements.

Scientific caveats on how to plan to make best use of the groundwater are stressed by Egyptian geologist Dr. Rushdi Said. There is the depth factor. Speaking of western Egypt in a 2003 interview with *EIR*, Dr. Said said, "It's deep, and you need a lot of energy to lift it up out of the ground. So it will make agriculture very expensive. The solution is to use that limited fossil water for a more useful thing—into manufacturing. Use it for industry, rather than agriculture. . . . Just imagine that you will have a deep well of 600 meters below the surface of the Earth—2,000 feet to lift it up."

Dr. Said, who worked on the Libyan "Great River" project, shown in Figure 2, said that he had proposed a counterplan. "My suggestion was, rather than moving it to the North, just keep it there [in southern Libya]. And since you will have farmers from Egypt anyhow coming, bring them to the South. Because it's very expensive to transport that water. . . . The groundwater should be used where it is, and in manufacturing industries. First of all, it's fossil water. Once you get it, you don't replace it."

The recommendation, in Dr. Said's overview, is that there is a mutual interest for a division of labor between regions and countries in northeast Africa, based on resources. Sudan has great agriculture potential—with ample water in southern Sudan—"a beautiful area to develop." Egypt should use the fossil water for industrial development, until nuclear-desalted supplies come on-line. He said that "the best union you can have, is with the Sudan, of course. And that's why, the history of Egypt was tied with the Sudan all the time. The separation of the two countries is bad for the Sudan, and bad for Egypt."

Book Review

Nasser's Geologist: Use Resources; Grow!

by Marcia Merry Baker

Science and Politics in Egypt; A Life's Journey

by Rushdi Said

Cairo and New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2004

230 pages, hardbound (www.aucpress.com; also available in Arabic), \$24.50

In 2000, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, Egyptian geologist Rushdi Said, who was Director of the Geological Survey of Egypt, and activist on the Industrialization Commission for Gen. Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt (1954 to 1970), wrote his life story. His direct experience spans the key historic times of modern Egypt, from his birth one year after the attempted revolution for independence, led by the Wafd Party; to the 1936 gaining of limited sovereignty; through the years of World War II; independence in 1954; and events thereafter. Thus, this book—written first in Arabic, and since in English translation—is a fine resource for gaining insight for today's battle to defeat globalization, and restore the world's nations to economy-building, not neo-colonialism and war. In fact, the book includes a "Chronological Table of Events" from 1919 to 1981, for ease of reference.

What Said's firsthand expert account makes vividly clear is that the land, water, and mineral resource base of northeastern Africa is conducive to fabulous development potential for all peoples, given an international climate favoring economic advance among nations, instead of the geopolitical horrors that have been imposed over the past 40 years of "free trade" politics. His development viewpoint in turn spotlights how venal and stupid are those who are currently demanding war and invasion in the name of "helping" Darfur, instead of waging humanitarian relief and economic improvement.

Dr. Said identifies as a high point in his political life, his 12 years participating in the Interparliamentary Union, and his backing for the Non-Aligned Nations Movement. He represented Egypt in the Union, while he served in the Parliament of Egypt from 1964 to 1976; this had special significance, as