

Sudan Domestic Media, December 20, 2010 (covering December 13 to December 19, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

December 13

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir was set to leave today for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to participate in the fifth International Conference on Federalism, set to begin on December 13. Ambassador Akoi Bona Malwal, the deputy head of the Sudanese mission in Addis Ababa, told the radio that Ethiopia has a long history in practicing federalism. He identified the sessional papers and contributions that would be made by Sudan's delegation at the conference and noted that the presence of numerous leaders from various countries would give President al-Bashir an opportunity to meet with them and discuss political developments in Sudan.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir arrived in Addis Ababa to attend the fifth International Conference on Federalism. Prof Al-Amin Daf'allah, the federal system council's secretary-general, said that Sudan would share its experience with federalism and participate in all levels of the conference sessions. He added that President al-Bashir would meet with heads of state on the sidelines of the conference.

December 14

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Dec 10)

- According to President Omar al-Bashir, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have taken big steps toward the coordination and consolidation of relations between the north and the south regardless of whether the referendum results in unity or secession. In his address to the International Conference on Federalism's opening session in Addis Ababa on December 13, the president said that Sudan continues to make efforts to achieve unity, as per the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He also indicated his commitment to holding the referendum and accepting the results, whatever they may be, as long as the process is free, fair and transparent. He said that Sudan had opted to adopt federalism as the most appropriate administrative

and political choice in order to deal with Sudan's diversities. He added that Sudan could attain its key strategic goals through the application of federalism.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir returned to Sudan from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia following the visit by the Sudanese delegation for the International Conference on Federalism. The conference included representatives of African and European countries that are adopting federalism. President al-Bashir met with several country leaders during the conference.

December 16

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir was scheduled to make an address at Friendship Hall in Khartoum this evening at the conclusion of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) meetings and a party recognizing pioneers in the Arab media in honor of the Golden Jubilee celebrations for the national television and the end of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the national radio.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 10)

- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice president of Sudan and president of the government of South Sudan, briefed the AU Peace and Security Council in Juba on the implementation of the CPA, ongoing preparations for the upcoming referendum and pending issues between the NCP and the SPLM. Dr. Cirino Hiteng, a minister at Salva Kiir's office, said that Kiir confirmed the Southern Sudanese government's commitment to affording equal opportunities to those advocating for unity or secession. The head of the AU Peace and Security Council called for a free, fair and peaceful referendum.

December 17

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Dec 10)

- During the December 16 Council of Ministers session, President Omar al-Bashir, who chaired the meeting, called for immediate and robust measures regarding the increase in the price of wheat and sugar commodities. President al-Bashir emphasized the provision of basic commodities in necessary quantities and at appropriate prices in order to protect citizens with low incomes. The minister of finance and national economy presented a report on the increase of prices for basic commodities to the council. The meeting also included a briefing from the president on Sudan's role in the recent federalism summit in Addis Ababa.
- President Omar al-Bashir indicated the government's commitment to achieving stability and supporting the Sudanese peace process. He added that the CPA will

continue to be implemented to its final stages by holding the January 9, 2011 referendum. The president met with the AU's Peace and Security Council delegation, led by Amadou Andai, in the presence of Kamal Hasan Ali, Sudan's minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and said that the referendum results would be recognized if they actually expressed the will of southerners.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Dec 10)

- A December 17 sermon was broadcast live on Sudan TV in Khartoum. The first sermon generally addressed religious matters. The preacher stated that southerners have the right to vote in the referendum and opt for either unity or secession. He also said that Sudan faced many challenges and conspiracies, noting that people were plotting to divide, which is why they pushed Darfur into a state of chaos.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 10)

- The Naivasha partners (the NCP and the SPLM) began talks today in Ethiopia that were sponsored by Austria. The talks are meant to address the mutual trust initiative proposed by Vienna two weeks ago in Khartoum during talks on post-referendum arrangements and economic, political and security relations between the north and south should the referendum result in secession. The talks in Addis Ababa, which end tomorrow, will offer suggestions on the issues being addressed and assist the ruling partners to plan for the future.

December 19

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Dec 10)

- In response to Wikileaks-revealed claims made by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor that President Omar al-Bashir deposited large sums of money in British banks, the Ministry of Information issued a statement saying that the ICC Prosecutor has failed in his mission to tarnish President al-Bashir's image and this led him to convince U.S. diplomats to disseminate the allegations. The ministry described the revelations as a desperate political move on the part of the ICC and the Prosecutor. The statement also emphasized the confidence of the Sudanese people in their president and urged people around the globe to speak out against the ICC and its Prosecutor. It called on the UN Security Council to make a decision that would prohibit the ICC from using its mandate to hurt the interests of UN member states because they reject colonial hegemony. British Lloyds Bank group refuted the WikiLeaks claims and said it had no evidence of funds belonging to someone named al-Bashir. The bank stated that it is constrained by legal and organizational policies.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir announced that the government will continue implementing essential projects in Al-Qadarif State in order to improve stability and use citizens' capabilities to achieve sustainable development. In an address at celebrations for National Harvest Day in Al-Qadarif State, President al-Bashir said the government would sponsor the poor by maintaining them, establishing educational and social programs for them and including them in production efforts. The president said that attention should be devoted to the animal resource sector by locating grazing routes, securing grazing fields, caring for nomads and conserving forests in order to make exports through the transformation of 15 percent of agricultural land into forests. He noted that the government was committed to furnishing fertilizers, seeds, agricultural machinery and establishing harvest inputs. He said that water harvesting initiatives in the state would be improved with the drilling of boreholes and wells. President al-Bashir stated that there would be no bargaining and no turning back on the application of Shari'ah laws. He also indicated that Sudan would pursue policies and programs aimed at achieving transformation in all areas.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 10)

- Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, Sudan's defence minister, affirmed that the Sudanese Armed Forces would carry on with training efforts and programs in order to protect the country's gains and borders. He announced that the Armed Forces had successfully captured positions of armed groups in Darfur. He told technicians and medical specialists at the Military College during a graduation ceremony for the 34th battalion that the Armed Forces will work toward maintaining peace following the referendum. He also said that the Armed Forces had signed several protocols with the South Sudanese government with the aim of achieving peaceful coexistence and development during the referendum period.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 10)

- According to Sudan Radio, President Omar al-Bashir has downplayed the imminent secession of the south and the effect this will have on the Sudanese economy. In a speech at the National Harvest Day inauguration, President al-Bashir said that the secession of Southern Sudan would not be the end of the world. According to the radio, al-Bashir said the following in an emotional tone: "As there is oil now in the south, there is also oil in the north, and the north's oil is more promising, more durable and its quantities larger than the oil found in the south." The president said that if the south seceded, the constitution would be changed to remove reference to issues pertaining to the south. He also said that Shari'ah law would be reinforced in Northern Sudan, Islam would be the official state religion and Arabic would be the official state language.