

Sudan Domestic Media, September 27, 2010 (covering September 20 to September 26, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

September 21

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Sep 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir reiterated the government's commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum on January 9, 2011, and to accept the results. During a meeting in Khartoum with Thabo Mbeki, the former president of South Africa, President al-Bashir stated that arrangements for holding the referendum are in progress with everyone's cooperation. Mbeki remarked after the meeting that President al-Bashir informed those involved that the presidency had issued directives calling for the immediate completion of processes by the Border Demarcation Committee. He added that they had been informed of the government's attempts to resolve the Darfur issue and intend to follow up with presidential advisor Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din in order to discuss mechanisms for settling the crisis using the current strategy. Mbeki also noted that his team, which is part of the African Union, would take part in the September 24 special meeting on Sudan in New York.
- President Omar al-Bashir received an invitation from Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo to visit the Ivory Coast and develop bilateral ties. Mr. Dao Melo, the Ivorian presidential advisor, stated that the message sent to al-Bashir affirms the deep ties between Sudan and the Ivory Coast and noted that the presidents of the two countries agreed to work on bilateral relations.
- Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudan's vice-president, lauded Qatar's role and efforts in resolving the Darfur issue and bringing about stability by sponsoring negotiations between Sudan's government and armed groups. During his meeting with Qatari Emir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Sudan Radio's correspondent in New York noted that Mr. Taha had discussed ways of improving bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern. The meeting took place during his visit to New York, where he led the Sudanese delegation participating in the UN General Assembly. Mr. Taha was scheduled to address the General Assembly on September 27.

September 22

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Sep 10)

- Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudan's vice-president, met on September 21 with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to discuss bilateral ties and other issues related to Sudan. Foreign Minister Ali Karti described the meeting as "positive" and noted that issues were discussed in a frank and fair fashion, particularly those related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Darfur, U.S. economic sanctions against Sudan and terrorism. Karti called the sanctions unjust and stated that Sudan was not connected to terrorism. He requested that the U.S. immediately review its Sudan policies, noting that Clinton had reaffirmed America's intention of reviewing the situation and its own policies and the country's desire to cooperate with Sudan.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0812 GMT 22 Sep 10)

- In a speech broadcast live by Sudan's state-owned TV on September 22, President Omar al-Bashir reaffirmed his government's intention of holding a "free, fair and transparent" self-determination referendum in Southern Sudan. In an address during the opening session of the Great Lakes parliamentary meeting which took place in Friendship Hall in Khartoum, al-Bashir stated that some parties do not want peace or stability in Sudan, but he promised to ensure that the CPA was implemented according to its stipulations.

September 24

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Sep 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir directed the completion of joint infrastructure projects with Chad beginning with the road creating a link between the two countries. While meeting with Mr. Adoum Younousmi, Chad's minister for transport, environment and urban development, President al-Bashir made known his appreciation for the visible improvement in relations between Sudan and Chad and Chad's desire to continue to improve cooperation. Chad's minister indicated that the road connecting N'djamena and Port Sudan would be finished before 2012 and noted that several agreements and protocols dealing with trade and activating road, air and rail transport would be signed. Eng Faysal Hamad Abdallah, the minister of state in the ministry of transport, also announced that technical committees were examining the crossings that could potentially become routes for inter-border and inter-state trade.
- Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhamad Taha was set to address a special meeting on Sudan in New York in the broader context of the UN General Assembly meetings. Peace partners, neighboring countries and the UN Secretary-General were expected to participate. Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Karti told a radio correspondent that the meeting was important and noted that 23 countries and regional and international organizations would participate in the meeting. He stated that the goal of the meeting was to improve the development of events in Sudan, implement the CPA and achieve peace in Darfur. He added that another meeting involving the two parties in the CPA would be held with First Vice-

President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit and Vice-President of the Republic Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha in the hopes of boosting mechanisms to conclude the peace process in Sudan.

- Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudan's vice-president, met with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah in New York to discuss progress on the situation in Sudan, the ongoing processes to conduct the South Sudan referendum and other issues of common concern. Kuwait's prime minister expressed determination on behalf of his country that the referendum would be free and transparent. He also expressed hope that next year's conference for the development of Eastern Sudan would be successful. Vice-President Taha also met with Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad to discuss joint work between the two countries and improvements that would benefit the people of Sudan and Iran. Iran's president expressed his country's support for Sudanese unity and stability. Taha also met with Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud, the Qatari minister of state in the foreign ministry. Their discussion focused on enhancing the peace process through the Doha negotiations between the government and Darfuri movements. Taha thanked Qatar for its ongoing contributions and support for the peace process in Darfur.

September 25

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Sep 10)

- The final communiqué from participants in the UN General Assembly's September 24 New York meeting on Sudan asserted the commitment of the two partners of the CPA, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), to the peace process in Sudan and the progress that had been made in resolving complicated issues over the past five years as well as their robust commitment to holding a peaceful, free and credible referendum. The communiqué noted the commitment of the CPA partners to getting past political and technical obstacles and holding the South Sudan referendum on schedule.
- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, president of the government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and Chairman of the SPLM, expressed his commitment to conducting the referenda in a way that respects the hopes and desires of the people of the south and Abyei. He noted that the South Sudan referendum was the key provision in the CPA and added that the GoSS was working with the NCP to create long-term positive post-referendum relations.
- Party Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, the vice-president of Sudan and deputy chairman of the NCP, affirmed Sudan's commitment to conduct the referendum as scheduled and commented that the referendum would reflect the desire of southerners for unity. During his speech in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly sessions, he noted his commitment to the CPA and affirmed that the crucial goal of the agreement was to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace in both the north and south.