

Sudan Domestic Media, September 13, 2010 (covering September 6 to September 12, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

September 7

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 7 Sep 10)

- Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudan's Vice-President, praised relations between Sudan and South Africa during a visit from the South African National Congress. The head of the South African delegation told Suna that relations between the two countries and developments within both countries were discussed. She also noted South Africa's strong support for peace, unity and stability in Sudan and throughout Africa. Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, the Presidential Advisor and Chairman of the External Relations Sector at the National Congress, added that both parties decided to hold the joint Sudanese-South African ministerial committee meetings in Khartoum in October. The South African National Congress Party delegation plans meet with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leaders in Juba to learn more about their ideas concerning various political issues. Isma'il deemed the South African delegation visit a success and commented that the parties agreed on a number of ways to consolidate relations between the two countries at both the official and partisan levels.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 7 Sep 10)

- Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, the Speaker of the National Assembly, was invited to attend China Day on October 1, the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum and the Symposium of the encouragement of Arab investment in Western China. The invitation came from the Chinese ambassador to Sudan who met with al-Tahir on September 7 and went over relations between the two countries with him. Al-Tahir emphasized greater cooperation between Sudan and China and noted the importance of the coming period for Sudan. He added that the government remained keen on holding the referendum as scheduled in January.

September 8

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Sep 10)

- The Sudanese government, the AU and the UN held an emergency and introductory meeting in Khartoum to discuss preparations for the upcoming

September 27 meeting in New York with the UN Secretary-General focusing on Sudan. The meeting is set to take place on the sidelines of a General Assembly meeting. Today's talks also covered issues associated with UNAMID deployment in Darfur, security strategies and the IDP situation. The meeting emphasized the importance of the government and UNAMID in improving security in Darfur. The coordination and cooperation between the government and UNAMID forces was also welcomed at the meeting.

September 11

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Sep 10)

- Mr. Ali Karti, Sudan's foreign minister, emphasized that statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding the referendum as a time bomb and the inevitability of secession were meant to demonstrate that Sudan has serious problems. Karti told Suna that Clinton's statements were exaggerated and appeared to seek to paint an inaccurate picture of the situation in Sudan. He added that current American efforts to resolve various issues in Sudan came late, after the two peace deal partners had already agreed on most of the issues. He noted that U.S. intervention with the aim of assisting the two sides in reaching agreements was welcome.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 10)

- The National Congress Party (NCP) praised the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the recent political parties' meetings with the presidency of Sudan. The meetings covered the question of Sudanese unity, the holding of a fair referendum and resolution of the situation in Darfur. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, the NCP's secretary of foreign affairs and presidential advisor, told the press that all 19 parties and political institutions that responded to the president's call are preparing the outcomes and recommendations of the meetings and plan on forming joint committees to unity in Sudan. Isma'il stated that these political forces could keep the country together following agreements based on serious and active discussions.

September 12

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Sep 10)

- Dr. Abd-al-Rahman Khadr, the governor of Khartoum State, emphasized his support for achieving unity in the upcoming referendum and asked the citizens of South Sudanese to opt for unity. During celebrations marking Id-al-Fitr, Dr. al-Khadr promised to respect the people's choice by refraining from influencing them to vote for unity during the referendum. Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Dib, Egypt's ambassador to Khartoum, noted Egyptian support for Sudanese unity and stated that his country would stand by Sudan and oppose allegations against it coming

from hostile forces. Archbishop John San Kuku of the Archbishop of the National Lutheran Church also expressed support from the Sudanese churches for the unity option and their efforts toward this end.

- President Omar al-Bashir called on all political forces to actively work toward making the approaching referendum successful. He remarked that this national event unites all of the people and will serve as an example to the rest of the world. During several meetings over the past few days, President al-Bashir stressed the importance of boosting efforts to support Sudanese unity so that the referendum takes place in a free, transparent and accountable environment that will allow unity to be a voluntary option.