

LIMITED CIRCULATION

WORKING GROUP ON SUDAN:
CANADA AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

March 28, 2000
Ottawa

On March 28, some government officials and NGOs met to reflect on what could Canada do to help alleviate the situation in Sudan and to contribute to a lasting peace in the region at the United Nations Security Council. Participants are working forward through other multilateral bodies, including the ICP, IGAD.

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Heidi Hular started the discussion by saying that Minister Agworthy is committed to take the Sudan issue to the Security Council. A Resolution has been poined and a draft distributed for this purpose. The immediate response of the Sudanese governments, some Arab governments, as well as China and Russia has been negative. A "reassurance offensive" has been launched to counter the negative feedback of these countries.

It has been ascertained that at best, the Canadian delegation could achieve a statement to the press - a result of an informal "dinner meeting" of the Security Council with no records, involving only Security Council members. There would be little weight or prestige to a press statement. This leaves Canada at a critical juncture. While the statement could refer to the grave humanitarian situation in Sudan and call for humanitarian access to blocked areas and a temporary humanitarian ceasefire, it would fall far short of a Resolution. Given the amount of resistance, even this seems possible outcome would be a fight. Perhaps the Council could table the issue and develop a draft resolution in support of the peace process. What there would be some value in this development, is a statement, which may be seen as "not worth pursuing" or "meaningless, worth pursuing". Would it be helpful at all? Would a seemingly public struggle for a resolution against human security agents?

Some participants, including Kathy Vandergriff, at one point to the massive problems in Sudan. Joe Stern said that it

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