

1999), we will score a decisive victory by liberating all positions and spreading peace and stability in all parts of Sudan".

It is clear from these remarks that the Sudanese government is counting on the development of the oil industry to aid them in their war against the Sudanese people. This is clear evidence that Canadian oil companies, are directly aiding the Khartoum government in their war efforts. We can also infer, with reasonable probability, that Canadian oil companies are unwittingly supporting a campaign of genocide against the people of southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains.

4.2.3 Giving Tyrants the "Benefit of the Doubt"

There is no question that the government of Sudan is making a concerted effort to dupe the international community into believing that it is not engaged in brutal and inhumane activities, and is simply trying to work for peace. Churches are left open in Khartoum and a few other main cities. There are even Christians and other with government portfolios. If one does not speak Arabic, travels only to Khartoum and other areas where the government allows, and speaks only with government officials and their supporters within the UN community, one could come away with an entirely different understanding of the suffering of the Sudanese people, and the reality of religious persecution and genocide.

Many have been fooled.

Yet this is not unusual. One only has to remember the disbelief of the international community to reports coming out of Germany during World War 2, to know how easy it is for dictators to dupe the world community. Similarly, during the days of Stalin, highly respected people such as Bernard Shaw, Beatrice and Sidney Webb, and even PM Herriot of France, visited the Ukraine during the early 1930's and proclaimed that reports of the famine and mass killings of Stalin's campaign against the Kulaks to be false. Later, by Stalin's own admission, over 10 million Kulaks had been "liquidated".

The same thing appears to be happening in the Sudan today. Despite all the evidence from numerous human rights groups, independent journalists and NGOs, the international community is still reluctant to take any action against the despots in Khartoum. Time after time, the world has given the ruling junta the "benefit of the doubt".

When Khartoum finally opened up some areas of Bahr El Ghazal to emergency relief flights last year, they received accolades of praise from the international community, rather than criticism for closing those areas off in the first place.

Despite compelling evidence of Sudan government involvement in the slave trade, international diplomats consistently refer to the "alleged slave trade", and never make a direct link between it and the regime in Khartoum - this in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary - evidence which anyone can gather for themselves by interviewing the redeemed slaves.