

initiatives?"He had already,earlier in the brief pointed out that one violation of the KPA was "not providing work opportunities for southerners in the oilfields."

Has all of this hardened the GOS against its major KPA partner? Does it really want to end the war which has gone on for so long, a war in which Oil does now count for something?

We certainly met Southerners who saw oil as the way forward for their people, but it has to be said that these were mostly in Khartoum,trying to give reality to the Khartoum Peace Agreement.

In the meantime, many Southerners believe, and told us on several occasions, that oil in Western Upper Nile is being extracted under the authority of a government which has no legitimacy; they insist that oil can be taken from the area only when the South is under the authority of a government they recognize. In fact, villagers, militia commanders, political figures all asked us: "Did the Canadian oil company ask our permission to take our oil, and sell it? Why is Canada, a rich country, taking our oil without our permission, and without any of benefit to us?"

The preponderance of Southern opinion we encountered was that Oil was hurting their people. We tried hard to find out what people thought and felt, and tried hard to figure out just what is going on. Leonardo Franco's predecessor as Special Rapporteur, Gaspar Biro, has been quoted as saying that if the oil companies don't know what's going on,they're not looking over the fences of their compounds.

Of course, Talisman maintains that it keeps itself well-informed, and there is some reason to believe that this is so, at a certain level. However, we were often told, and saw for ourselves, that great reliance is placed on the GNPOC security staff for local information. If Talisman was really looking "over the fence", what would its people have seen?

Certainly, there seem to be few,if any,Nuer or Dinka at work at Heglig,which seems to fit with a widely held view in Western Upper Nile that the GOS, thus GNPOC, views all non-Arabs as potential threats to security. Skilled workers are brought from the North; the unskilled are recruited, on an as needed basis, by the Arab overseers working for GNPOC, and they go to the Heglig Market for this purpose, a market where are gathered the Jallaba traders and the Bagarra nomads who have proliferated in the area since the time of Chevron. And all hires are scrutinized by Sudan Security. If Talisman was serious about being a good corporate citizen, **it would win the support of its GNPOC partners to have an audit of hiring and employment practices carried out by the International Labour Organization .**

But failing to be hired is not the same as being killed for seeking work,and **we hope Canada will call for an investigation into a serious allegation**,an investigation which must not be left to the GNPOC or the GOS.

It was reported to us, in different places, from widely different sources, **that in August 1999, 8 Nuer went to Heglig to seek work from GNPOC, and were killed for it.**