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GoS welcomes U.S. Special Envoy's comments

Ali Al-Sadig, spokesman for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the Government of Sudan (GoS) welcomed statements made by the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson, during a recent lecture in Washington. Williamson mentioned that the Bush Administration was willing to establish a diplomatic platform for the new Administration to promote further dialogue between Sudan and the United States. Al-Sadig indicated that Williamson's remarks revealed he was well informed about Sudan's portfolio. He expressed his hope that the U.S. Special Envoy's observations would be heard by the new U.S. administration. (*Sudan News Agency*)

Al-Jaz calls for Arab investment in Sudan

Awad Al-Jaz, Sudanese Minister of Finance and National Economy, called on Arab investors to invest in the agricultural sector to solve the food crisis. The recommendation was made during his address at an investment forum, in Cairo, December 21-22. Al-Jaz stated that "Sudan's door is open" for Arab investment and emphasized the government's wish to form strategic partnerships with other Arab countries to mitigate the food crisis in the Arab world. (*Al Watan, Al-Khartoum*)

Kir to meet with U.S. officials in Washington

Vice-President of the Government of National Unity and SPLM Chairman Salva Kir Mayardit is scheduled to meet with U.S. officials in Washington. Kir will discuss progress made on the Naivasha and Abuja agreements and their implementation. He is scheduled to meet with President George Bush to brief him on the latest developments in Sudan. (*Al-Watan*)

Umma Party urges NCP's commitment

The National Umma Party said that the National Congress Party (NCP) needed to commit to implementation of the National Consensus Agreement to improve understanding between political parties. Vice Chairman of the Umma Party, Burma Nassir, said, "there are certain individuals within the NCP who do not want to see the agreement implemented." Nassir stressed that it was not acceptable for the National Consensus Agreement "to remain ink on paper." (*MirayaFM*)

UNICEF expresses concern for Darfur children

UNICEF representative Ted Chaiban said the Darfur conflict has affected 2.3 million children. Chaiban said UNICEF has lowered the child mortality rate in Darfur by stepping up immunization campaigns and improving sanitary conditions. He noted that "many challenges still face Darfur and impede the UNICEF's efforts to protect children." Chaiban urged the Sudanese government to focus on investment in the primary healthcare sector. (*Al-Ahdath, Al-Khartoum*)

Abyei Administration calls on IDPs to return

Arop Moyak, Chairman of the Abyei Interim Administration, called on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who fled Abyei during recent clashes (between the Joint Integrated Units) to return to their homes as soon as possible. Moyak promised to provide security and basic services to the IDPs. He called the recent clashes "an isolated incident that would not be repeated in the future." (*MirayaFM*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government