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NCP official criticizes SPLM on Juba Conference

The National Congress Party (NCP) Political Bureau official, Mandour Al-Mahdi criticized remarks made by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary-General Pagan Amum for stating that "his party had the means of implementing the resolutions of the Juba Conference through a government mechanism and that this would represent a manifesto for a new struggle movement." Speaking to the press on Sunday, Al-Mahdi indicated that SPLM's position at the Juba Conference would hinder the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and stated that "what is happening in Juba is a conspiracy against implementation of the CPA agreement signed with the NCP. "The boycott of this meeting by 72% of political forces forming the government of national unity and all southern Sudan parties confirms that the SPLM and its new allies will be able to implement the resolutions they can adopt," says Al-Mahdi. He went on to add that the SPLM intends to utilize northern political parties in order to achieve progress in resolving the outstanding issues regarding the referendum and the National census. Next month the Sudanese parliament will resume its activities and is expected to discuss the referendum bill. However, discussions at the joint political committee between the two parties are deadlocked over the issue. The NCP official disclosed that dialogue between the two partners has been suspended until the SPLM is ready to show its "good will". (*Sudanese official News Agency, Sudantribune.com*)

NCP accuses foreign sources behind conspiracy

An article in *Al-Wifaq* said that several NCP officials were accusing foreign sources of being

behind "a plot to destabilize the nation." These sources have allegedly provided 18 million US dollars to the political parties for the Juba conference.

President orders lifting Press Censorship

Yesterday, Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir issued a decree demanding the lifting of press censorship from all local newspapers. President Al-Bashir said that "he believed that journalists must distinguish between issues that violate sovereignty of the state, values of the nation, and the right for press freedom." Chief of the National Intelligence and Security Services Mohammed Atta Al-Mawla commended the role of the Sudanese press and explained "that NISS was not interested in press censorship in principle but was forced to do so under certain circumstances." He continued to add that even though NISS would lift press censorship, the constitutional court would reserve the state's right for press censorship. (*Sudanese Media Center, Sudanese Official News Agency, et al*)

NCP demands scoring 90% to endorse referendum

Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Riak Machar told reporters that the National Congress Party (NCP) demanded scoring 80% of the votes in the referendum to achieve succession for the South. SPLM, however, insisted on 50 % plus 1 to achieve succession. (*Sudanese Media Center, The Advocate*)

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.