

FBIS-NES-88-163
23 August 1988

ARAB AFRICA

During his visit to the Pakistani capital, the Canadian defense minister had conveyed condolences on the death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The Canadian minister is scheduled to leave Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday.

Leaves Cairo 23 Aug

NC2308100988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT
23 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister Paul Wyatt Dick left Cairo for home this morning after an overnight stop on his way back from Islamabad. During his stay in Islamabad, the Canadian defense minister conveyed condolences to Pakistani officials on the death of President Ziaul Haq.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Islamic Call Graduates

LD2208121288 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2010 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to graduates of the Islamic Call College in Tripoli 18 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Oh brothers: I welcome you at your second conference for graduates of the World Islamic Call College, and of its branch in Damascus, and congratulate you on your graduation from this college. I regard you as if you were at home because the home of Islam is a home for all Muslims, and I do not consider you foreigners or guests here in your land, Libya.

In the beginning, I would like to address high appreciation to the lecturers who supervised your study and graduation. I also value the efforts of the World Islamic Call Society and consider the World Islamic Call College in Tripoli and its branch in Damascus as a scientific and fundamental base for the spread of Islam by science and by means befitting the age, away from deceit, legerdemain, and superstitions, which are distant from science and the spirit of the age. I call for taking the initiative to open branches of this college in all parts of the wide Islamic world. [applause]

Your country, Libya, as a prominent, leading member in the Islamic group, will contribute from its state budget to the building and setting up of these branches in the Islamic world. By following this course, Islam will progress little by little in firm and scientific steps to sweep before it the heaps of ignorance, apostasy, and paganism that still exist in various parts of the world and especially in Africa, and to sweep away the other attempts against the spread of Islam and those who are against the very existence of Islam.

Oh brothers, you have a responsibility to shoulder and I entrust you with a mission, esteemed professors and graduates. This responsibility and that mission is the mission of jihad for the sake of spreading Islam through wisdom and good lessons, and through discussion and better argument. We should not resort to the sword only when argument fails and we find no heeding or conscious ears.

Brothers, professors, and graduates: Upon you and upon those who will graduate from this college after you lies this responsibility. You must shoulder the burden of this mission, men and women, graduates of this World Islamic Call College and its branches. As you are graduating now, you will find that Islam faces challenges and perils that are not easy. You must know that Islam was the target in the era of Western colonialism. The latest wave of colonialism was the wave of Western colonialism. This colonialism sprang from Western Christian countries. The wave of Western colonialism came after the era of the Crusader wars.

Therefore, when the European Christians came to the Third World to colonize Africa and Asia, well of course they meant to colonize the whole world, but they had more rancor toward the Islamic world, in particular. Therefore they exerted the whole of their anger and violence against the Islamic world because they were still reacting to the Crusades. They did not want to see the Crusades repeated, Islam reemerging, or Andalusia happening again. When they managed to extend their hegemony over the world, including the Islamic world, they knew that it was a historic opportunity to destroy Islam once and for all, so there would not be another Andalusia, another crusade, or more Islamic conquests.

A good example of this is when General Allenby, who colonized Syria, went to Saladin's grave, hit it with his foot, and said: Here we are, Saladin; we have returned. This means the recent Western colonization was a vengeance and a reaction to the Crusades and the Jihad movement Saladin led, that means Allenby came to take revenge against Saladin after the latter's demise. This has re-affirmed to us, as Allenby said, that modern European colonialism was against the Muslim, to avenge the Crusades and their defeat by Saladin al-'Ayyubi.

Saladin al-'Ayyubi was not an Arab; he was a Kurd. The Kurdish nation is an Islamic nation, a sisterly nation of the Arab nation, the Persian nation, and the Turkish nation. It is also a neighbor of those three nations. We have repeatedly asserted that the Kurdish nation should be united, get its independence, and take its place in the Near East beside those three Islamic nations. This means that colonialism, Allenby and others, were not aiming at the Arab homeland because it was populated by Arabs; they aimed at it because it was the homeland of Islam. They wanted to take revenge against Saladin, who, as we have already said, was an Islamic leader and was not even an Arab.

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The outcome of this colonialist era was the mistreatment of Muslims and pressures brought to bear upon the Islamic world. The West European Christian colonialists decided to convert as many Muslims to Christianity as possible. They succeeded in converting a number of them in Africa. They managed to convert children from their Islamic faith. They adopted those who were converted, whether Muslims or pagans; they extended to them the necessary care and education, and enabled them to rule those countries which were under their hegemony.

They built churches, particularly in Africa so they could become centers of spiritual domination by European-Western colonialism over African nations. Today many missions are spread widely in Africa and Asia. We already announced that there is a plan to Christianize Indonesia—and it is one of the biggest Islamic nations—over a period of 50 years. This is proceeding according to plan. The process of the missionaries converting Muslims in Indonesia and that area and even in Africa to Christianity has been proceeding according to this plan. The World Council of Churches and the Western powers sponsor this plan.

Many Islamic nations are ruled by authorities who are not Islamic. This occurs especially in Africa. Islamic identity is being obliterated to a large extent. Many people will not believe it when we say that Kenya is an Islamic state. This is because it has a Muslim majority. When we say Tanzania is an Islamic state, it is because the vast majority in Tanzania are Muslims. And in Mozambique, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, and beyond the equator the vast majority is Islamic, but it is being obliterated and conquered as a result of Western colonialism.

I talk about this subject, not because we, as Muslims, are being religious fanatics or because we hate others because they are not Muslims. It must be made clear that we are on the defensive in the face of the injustice which happened to us. It was flagrant injustice. This injustice materially harmed our homelands. They colonized us and they turned mosques into churches. They obliterated our civilization and they burned our books which contain our heritage and our history. They burned our religious books. They forced us to change our faith. Others did all this to us.

Today we are still confronted by injustice, and we live this reality. Consequently this battle faces you. This is not a story that has ended. No, it has not ended. This is an issue which we are experiencing today. Therefore, we must face it.

This responsibility falls on you; you bear this mission. This is because you are spread all over the Islamic world. God willing, more groups will come and cover the rest of the Islamic world. Radiance will emanate from this place

to illuminate the Islamic world. We do not call for invasions or the burning of Bibles or the demolishing of churches, but we are defending ourselves.

This is the first fact; it is a historic truth, brothers. It is that the Western colonialists came with their crusading hatred against the Islamic world and they persecuted it. They forced our children to give up the faith of their folk. They enabled minorities who have the same faith as theirs to dominate those who held our faith and who happened to be the majority. This is an injustice. And this is the truth about Western colonialism in the Islamic world. In the land of Islam the West behaved with a hateful and crusader spirit which differed from the spirit which was adopted in countries they had already colonized which were not Islamic. This is one truth.

The other truth is that we today are experiencing the result of this crusader colonialism. Its effects are still there: A minority rules the majority. Christians dominate Muslims. Churches dominate in an Islamic country. It is a battle to eradicate our history and our beliefs, a distortion of Islam, a psychological, political propaganda war against Islam which we are experiencing today.

Third, the campaign against Islam did not end with colonialism: Not only are we experiencing its results, but the campaign has been renewed. There are Peace Corps, missionary expeditions. They are operating today and the political coups which have been engineered by the Western states in Islamic countries mean that today we are facing a modern, new plot to destroy Islam through the missionary expeditions. The World Council of Churches and the Christian states have been paying millions for this plot. Comparing the two sides—those hostile to us and ourselves—shows the injustice; and right emerges on our side.

All of us believe in Jesus as a prophet. When we mention Jesus we say "peace be upon Him." The Koran is full of verses glorifying Jesus and His mother Mary. We regard Him as one of God's miracles. We recognize the Torah and the New Testament and the Psalms. But the danger is that the Christians do not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad. This is the difference between us and them. We say to their prophet Jesus "may peace upon Him;" whereas in their case, they don't say Muhammad is a prophet or may peace be upon him. They say he is a liar, a charlatan. That is how it is. They do not recognize him at all.

You should begin with Christians in the Arab world and then the Christians of Europe and America. Even with Christian Arabs; I had a discussion with Pope Shinudah. He told me that Christianity does not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad and that if they did recognize it the issue between Christianity and Islam would come to an end. The issue is that they do not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad. Therefore our problem is that today the Christian world right up to this moment

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does not recognize Muhammad as a prophet and does not recognize that we are believers in a divine religion. They see Muhammad as a charlatan.

They see Muslims as wicked people harboring feelings of hatred towards Christianity, Jesus, Mary, the church, the Torah, and the Bible. They believe that if the Islamic world at present was to unite or to make modern industrial progress it would destroy Christian Europe.

This is a belief that accepts no argument. The vicious campaign against Libya after the revolution and the attempts to destroy it and to encircle it from all directions, to prevent its contacts with the outside world is to a large extent a manifestation of a crusader hatred for the following reasons: Libya is a state which adopted the Koran as its law, and when they hear "Koran" they assume it is anti-Bible, anti-Torah, anti-Church, and anti-Christianity. So, if Libya became a military power and an industrial power, or even if it acquired a missile capable of crossing the Mediterranean, then it supposedly would destroy the churches and destroy Christianity.

They believe that. When Libya manufactured a missile with a range of 100 km, they said Libya has built a missile with a range of 1,000 km in order to spread fear in Europe that the Muslims had acquired missiles capable of crossing the Mediterranean Sea to destroy the Christian world. Generation after generation it has been fed to the Christian mind that if the Muslims became strong they would destroy Europe, and that the Muslims hate Christianity, the church, and Jesus. They fear we will burn their holy books and destroy their church, crosses, and statutes.

They resurrect the ghost of the Andalus [the area of Spain once held by the Moors] before their children and successive generations. They even teach it in the schools. They teach their sons: How could you let people defeat you who believe in Muhammad as a prophet, who are wicked, barbaric and backward people? This image of Muslims is presently held by Christians. This is being taught in schools and churches, and books are written on this theme.

After all, the main part of the conflict between West and East, when it concerns the Islamic world, is governed by these facts. To counter the rebirth of Islam, the officials in the Islamic world must be weak, their resources must be exhausted, they must be taught rotten things, their demands must be increased to turn them into a consuming market. All of this represents a complete colonial and crusader scheme. They have taught the Muslims to drink wine and eat pork and to gamble. This is the Western colonial war and these are weapons no less effective than bombs and machineguns and aircraft. This is not happening by chance at all. It is a plan, a political plan which is aimed at Islam. If the Muslim becomes a drunkard, a gambler, and morally rotten, he is finished. Therefore, these are weapons in a war, no less effective than a military war in which firearms are used.

So, a Muslim who drinks—and don't blame me for saying it—is someone who has fallen to the bullets of the enemy. A bullet can be a type of drink or a bullet of zinc or copper, for it felled a soldier of Islam. When he becomes a gambler playing cards, he has fallen in the battle, a soldier of Islam. This is not the Muslims' morality. And all that we see in the way of night clubs and other attractions which do not fit our nature and which do not satisfy any hunger are nothing but weapons with which this enemy is fighting us. And consequently we are always in a state of self-defense. We are facing aggression and injustice and destruction from within. I am saying this so we will march from this place to fight this enemy and to foil those weapons.

Therefore the youth of the Islamic world must ask for such things and even carry out a revolution in order to get them. Imagine the extent of it all. They have influenced the Islamic world by their education and prepared it mentally to do this. They wanted us to become a consumer market, consume the things which harm us and benefit them. We give them gold and they give us these chicaneries. They sell us paper, only paper, and we give them gold. We give them hard currency and they give us paper to kill time—paper for hard currency. This is a victory for them. They know that this process is still continuing and has not ended.

We call upon these new generations, which are the victims of Western colonialism and which are the outcome of Western Christian colonialism's victory over the Islamic world—these new generations, which are in fact a sick generation—(?not to fulfill) the colonialists' desires. Because if we allow ourselves to run after these needs and several other things, we will need them and their products. We will make of ourselves a consumer market.

So when Islam calls for Sufism—a rough life and asceticism—it is, in fact, a call which should make us come to our senses and be happy with less, only the necessary and the good so we will be able to do without the many things which are not useful for us and which might kill us and strengthen the enemy.

Sufism should spread—by Sufism I do not mean Derivishism. Sufism and its modern meaning is not exactly known in the Islamic world. I do not mean here Sufism as it was portrayed in the old books. For me, Sufism, which is an essence of Islam, should spread. [applause] Instead of spreading the veil and hindering women from working, showing them contempt and doubting their ability and endurance in comparison with men, Sufism and Islamic principles should be spread, instead of the misuse of religion, sophistry, the distortion of religion, the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Takfir Wal-Hijrah [the group which killed Egyptian President al-Sadat] and all other calls which have harmed Islam as much as Western Christian colonialism.

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Observing the Islamic scene and seeing the Muslim Brotherhood conspiring with the United States and being financed by United States intelligence, seeing clandestine societies, pistols, explosives, and killing in the dark, any analyst would think that the demise of Islam had begun. This is like the last gasp of a dying man. Islam has come up with nothing except bullets, bombs and the Muslim Brotherhood working clandestinely in collusion with U.S. intelligence. This would give the impression that the demise of Islam has begun. Any calling or religion which is in its death throes would resort to committing suicide at the very end, and particularly if Islam has been turned into mere clandestine activities, into bombs and explosives used not against the enemy but against Muslims. [applause]

We should not hear that a bus full of cadets from a Syrian academy has been blown up by a Muslim brother; we should hear instead that an Israeli bus full of Israeli cadets is bombed by a Muslim brother, something which conforms with holy war and Islam. Well, the opposite took place—Arab and Muslim cadets who were being trained to fight Zionism and imperialism at a Syrian academy were killed. This means that machinations which are of our own making rebounded on us. God forbid, we have managed to turn their conspiracy around. This means that we have started to fight each other. The explosions which took place in Syria were in fact blasphemy; why were they not carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood in the Golan or inside occupied Palestine?

Why does the Muslim Brotherhood not use its courage, ability, and sacrifices—if really they have such things—against the enemy? What have they done? They bombed a bus full of senior Syrian officers who were drawing up military plans against the Zionist enemy, killing a number of them. After this, who can say this is Islam or that this is an Islamic group? This a U.S. group, a satanic group, and a Zionist group. This group has harmed Islam. Consequently an official or even an ordinary citizen would say: If Islam is the Muslim Brotherhood, collaboration with U.S. intelligence, or if Islam means that one should not turn one's guns on the Israelis who occupy the Golan and Palestine, but instead should kill Syrian personnel in the Syrian streets and at their barracks, well this is not Islam; this is blasphemy. I am not part of this.

And he would be right. If Islam merely means drums, frankincense, trickery, amulets, and so on no one will accept it.

You have to destroy the missionary expedition which is being directed against Islam today, which is working day and night, and which is being backed by the Christian world. You have to shoulder a cultural battle in order to destroy the culture which is the result of the crusader campaign against us. You have to destroy the sectarianism; factionalism and the dervish-like movements which

have divided Islam. The Koran has very clear definitions. There are verses about those who form partisanships or follow a cult: It is irreligious. The Koran mentions this quite literally. Partisanship and adhering to a cult? How can one become a partisan or a cult follower in open contradiction of the Koran? This problem is confronting you. You must tackle it.

Islam should be returned into a world faith, a great faith, and not cells in the dark. Islam today means that the Muslim goes to the highest place, namely the minaret, or the pulpit, to say: God is great, I bear witness that God is great, and that Muhammad is the messenger of God. This means you must submit to what you are ordered to obey. Islam is not something that operates in the dark. As for these groups, which in actual fact are operating inside the Islamic world, they give the impression that Islam is in the throes of death. This is not a road on which Muslims kill one another.

If there is a revolutionary Muslim, a genuine Muslim who is not happy about the state of the Muslims around him, and who wants to change them into real Muslims and mujahidin, he must be a good example to them. He should move toward the common enemy of the Muslims and become a martyr in front of the enemy of Islam, who retarded us, who spread evil among us, and who occupied our holy shrines and homes. He should fight, and if he does this he will become a gallant Muslim, a brave Muslim and a mujahid, and not a complacent and submissive Muslim. But to go to kill the common enemy is folly. This is what the Muslim brothers and the other movements which have spread out in the Islamic world have been doing.

In so doing they have been serving the imperialist and Zionist plot. The Israelis are cheering every day there is an explosion in Syria—an explosion from within at the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood. They say: May their plotting rebound on them. They have been exploiting Koranic verses in order to gloat. When they entered Sinai, the Egyptians fled. What did they do? They printed leaflets with verses from the Koran, saying: How oft, God's will hath a small force vanquished a big one? [Koranic verse]. They printed these leaflets in order to drop them on the Egyptian Army.

The Muslim Brotherhood caused explosions in Syria, killing Army commanders, military college students, or even factory workers, because this factory is a Syrian factory participating in the war effort. God said: We made their plotting rebound on them. The Israelis copied this to make us out to be oppressors.

If the crimes committed by the Muslim brothers in Syria were turned into a jihad movement against the Israelis in the Golan or in Palestine, Golan would probably be free. But they did not fire a single bullet in the direction of Golan or Palestine. They blew up houses, bridges, and factories; they killed military cadets; they killed military commanders. Today they have their headquarters in the

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United States of America, alongside the U.S. intelligence. Just imagine how, in this day and age, Islam becomes subservient to U.S. intelligence—the CIA.

If there is an earnestness and readiness on your part to work for Islam, you must stand up to or destroy all these renegades. You should discredit their thoughts and depravity. You should surround them. You should stand up to the real enemy. I regret to tell you that in the current international politics, Christianity and Judaism, which we believe to be divine religions, revering their books and prophets, were exploited by imperialism and Zionism. Zionism dominated Judaism, and utilized it in a racist war against Arabs and Muslims, and in the long run against the entire world.

Imperialism utilized Christianity and turned it into a crusade. Today, crusade and Zionism entered into an alliance against Islam. Why? Because Zionism dominated Judaism, and the crusade dominated Christianity. The Western imperialist world today is a world of crusade. It exploited Christianity. In actual fact there is no rancor or hatred between the people who believe in divine religions and unitarians. As for the Christian man, we are not ignorant about his New Testament, Jesus, or Mary. We believe that Jesus is one of God's miracles and that He was a prophet of God. But He was not a son of God, or a god. He was a human being. His birth was one of God's miracles.

As for Judaism we recognize Moses, Jacob, the Israeli tribes, and all the prophets of the sons of Israel and the Torah. We revere these things because they are divine work. Our Prophet Muhammad, his book, the Koran—God revealed it through him. We learned these facts from his book and we believe in them. We do not differentiate between any of God's prophets. We do not even differentiate between Muhammad, Moses, or Jesus. God has said so. They are prophets of God. There is no problem between us and God in this connection. The problem is between us, as real Muslims, and Jews or Christians, as believers in divine religions.

But we are now in a real war between us and them. Why? There is a war between us and Zionism—which adopted Judaism, took advantage of it, contained it, and used it against us, not only in word but also in deed. Our common enemy used these two religions in the crusade, used them in modern Western colonialism, in the missionary movements, and in the raids on Libya and Tunisia, in raids on Syria and Lebanon, and in letting the Israelis take control of Palestine and its surroundings. The battle continues. They want to make Indonesia Christian. They want to turn a big Islamic nation into a Christian nation. Did we go to them to change them into Muslims?

No, it is they who came to the Muslims, wanting to change them into Christians. There is also paganism. Why don't they turn pagans into Christians? Why do they have to come to the Muslims? It is because they hate

Islam. The purpose of this is not to make God's religion universal. It is this: There are some people who believe in Islam, therefore they must be destroyed. There is a religion called Islam. They fear it and therefore they want to destroy it. It is not a question of spreading a religion for the sake of God. No. If this is the case, then there are nations who are pagan or ignorant. They exist. But they did not seek these nations.

What is happening now is that there is some concentration on making the Islamic countries change their faith to Christianity. Therefore, there is a military and political aim. If Islam and Muslims expired, Europe would be relieved and would say: There is no one who will cross the sea to create a new Andalusia. They would say: The cheating would end and so would the tale of the false prophet. Imagine what would happen if we said Jesus was not a prophet. If we did they would have some justification. They would say: Our problem with you is that you do not recognize Jesus. The fact is, we believe in Jesus and Moses, yet they do not recognize anything, even the prophethood of Muhammad.

The truth is that what is happening today is an unjust logic and a flagrant aggression. Regrettably there is no way to argue peacefully.

They have left us no scope to argue with them. If you say that this one is a prophet and that one is a prophet; what has this one done and what that one had done; or this one had this and that one had something else, there might be a logic for arguing. When they say that Muhammad can never be a prophet, that he is a charlatan, and you, the Muslims, are barbarians, savages, and want to destroy the church, Europe, and the cross, then there is no possibility for dialogue.

They expressed this when the United States, the Christian NATO alliance, attacked my house and Libya in full view of the world. This meant there could be no dialogue. They left no room for dialogue between them and us. Even an inquiry into the incidents they created cannot be held. There is no possibility of investigating them, whether these incidents took place or not, or who did or did not initiate them; they have shown that there is no room for dialogue, only killing and war. This is why we should declare jihad. We will triumph over them because we are stronger, we have right on our side, and our number is great. We form a quarter of the earth's population, and our countries possess the required resources. They want to negate our effectiveness; they want to turn us into consumers. They want to take our resources, process them, and turn them into trivial goods. In exchange, they want hard currency.

Our culture must reign supreme. My address should be published in a pamphlet. Every graduate should place it in his pocket. The rest of the graduates and your teachers are aware of this, and need not even listen to my address because they are fully aware of its content. In fact, I appreciate this elite section of the sons of the Islamic

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nations who come from all parts of the world, who placed themselves in the service of Islam, who made knowledge their preoccupation, and who want to go on a jihad in support of Islam. This is the right path. The right path is the path of modern Islamic knowledge.

The revolution today is a cultural revolution. If it comes to fighting, there is no problem. Our number is sufficient to fight, and exploding bombs and firing guns is easy. Any idiot could do it. But the most difficult thing is knowledge, culture, and enlightenment. The most dangerous thing is ignorance; to be exploited; a lack of awareness; superficiality all these things helped create the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Liberation Party, and the other groups which are a discredit to Islam. They have become a tool in the hands of the enemies of Islam, and today work on behalf of Israelis and Americans in the Islamic world.

I believe we began treading the right road when we set up this college and its branch. I pledge to you today we will open more branches in all parts of the Islamic world. [cheers, applause, and chants]

God willing, Islam is reawakening and the Islamic nation is rising once again. We have laid down the leadership base and the foundation stone for Islam's unity, the resurgence of Islam, and for confronting the enemy of Islamic leadership, a new Islamic unity, and a jihad in this age. God willing, this new jihad epic will end with a great victory for Islam. [applause, cheers, and chants]

Chad Reconciliation Moves Reported
PM2308130688 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
17-23 Aug 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Restoration of Chad-Libya Relations"]

[Text] According to Tunisian diplomatic sources, there has been a mediation between Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi on one hand and Chadian President Hissein Habre on the other. The sources emphasize that the Libyan leader stressed to the Tunisian president his willingness to establish diplomatic relations with Chad and not to interfere in the internal disputes between the various Chadian groups.

Tunisian circles expect direct talks to begin between Tripoli and Ndjamenah this month and diplomatic relations to be established before the end of the year.

Briefs

ROK Telecommunications Agreement

Tripoli, 22 Aug, JANA—The minutes of a cooperation agreement in telecommunications between the Great Jamahiriyyah and South Korea was signed today in Tripoli. The minutes were signed by Yi Hae-uk, the South

Korean vice minister of communications, and the brother general secretary of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport. [Text] [LD2308041788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 88]

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Mahdi on Flood, Aid Plans
NC2208153588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT
22 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has criticized the way in which the foreign press has reported the recent events in Sudan. He added that some correspondents described Sudan as if it were drowning, as if it were plagued with epidemics, and as if locusts were threatening it for the first time in 1,000 years.

Most of Al-Mahdi's criticism was directed at the BBC. He accused that corporation, as well as newspapers and other press establishments, of exaggerating the situation in Sudan in their reports.

He affirmed that the Sudanese Government welcomes all journalists of whatever nationality, provided that they commit themselves to reporting facts. The prime minister stressed that Sudan is open and ready to provide them with whatever they demand.

In a statement before the Constituent Assembly today on the recent floods and torrential rains in the country, Al-Mahdi pointed out these disasters had left 73 persons dead and 215 others injured. He added that 120,705 buildings, including houses, schools, and other installations, have been demolished in Khartoum, not to mention the damage which has been caused in the Northern, Eastern, and Central Provinces.

The prime minister said that structural flaws primarily contributed to the extensive damage to buildings in the capital. He added that technical committees are now working on a plan to redesign and reconstruct the capital.

The Sudanese prime minister disclosed in his statement that Sudan has 22 planes at its disposal to fight the spread of the locusts and has enough pesticides to last 15 days.

Al-Mahdi said the locusts initially infested an area of 500,000 hectares but have now spread to an area covering 2 million hectares. He emphasized that Sudan, supported by friends, will exert more efforts to fight this danger.

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Regarding the aid which Sudan has received from abroad, the prime minister said that the aid received so far amounts to 211 planeloads, 192 of which have come from Arab states. He expressed thanks to all fraternal and friendly states which have helped Sudan in the present conditions.

Replying to rumors carried by foreign radios on the misdirection of aid, including the charge the Army has consumed most of the aid, the Sudanese prime minister defended the Armed Forces, asserting the Army has sacrificed its supplies of foodstuffs for the sake of helping the residents of many areas in the capital. He added the Army has contributed to the orderly distribution of the aid.

Answering allegations made by foreign radios that the distribution of aid is subject to religious and racist considerations, Al-Mahdi described these as biased rumors emanating from the minds of those who continue to consider Sudan as part of an Africa living in darkness. He pointed out Sudan deals in a tolerable manner with all.

Turning to the issue of the floods, Al-Mahdi disclosed that the water level of the Nile reached 16.8 meters today. However, he added, it is expected that the damage resulting from these floods will be less severe than that incurred in 1946, thanks to the big projects which have restricted the flow of water as well as the construction of the Al-Rusayris Reservoir, facilities that did not exist in 1946.

Pointing out that Khartoum is 360 meters above sea level, Al-Mahdi said that if we add to this the highest water level ever recorded—17.14 meters in 1946—then the highest the water level could reach is 377.14 meters. Theoretically, this means that all parts of Khartoum would be covered by water, he added. The prime minister noted however that most of Khartoum's installations have been built at 382 meters above sea level, thus rendering them safe from the threat of flooding.

Al-Mahdi said that he has received a report on the readings of the water level in the Al-Daym area on the Ethiopian hill. The report indicates that the level has dropped 10 cm. This, he added, means that regardless of how big the flow might be today and tomorrow, the water level will recede after 3 days, because any drop in the Al-Daym readings will reflect on the Nile within the next 3 days. He noted that the volume of water in the Al-Rusayris Reservoir has dropped from 643 to 603 cubic meters at the moment, adding it is expected to drop further in the coming 3 days.

The Sudanese prime minister said that the [current] readings of the water levels do not portend a great threat. He acknowledged, however, that some islands, towns, and other areas have been flooded by the Nile inundation and that damage has been incurred as a result. The prime minister pointed out that a reassuring situation will develop should the Nile water level recede in the coming days. In this connection, he noted that the Nile

flooding is expected to end by the 1st week of September. Al-Mahdi added that while Sudan is exerting great efforts to handle these problems, the media's treatment of the situation has been very exaggerated.

Touching on other Sudanese problems, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reiterated his government's rejection of the entry of any foreign troops into his country. He noted there was no agreement regarding the entry into Sudan of some 2,000 troops of Chad's Ibn Oumar. However, Al-Mahdi stressed that the Sudanese Government has refused to give Ibn Oumar permission to join these forces. He added these troops have no alternative but to hand over their weapons to the Sudanese Armed Forces and to remain in Sudan as refugees until an agreement has been reached with Chad.

Regarding the situation in the south, Al-Mahdi disclosed that a considerable number of exchanges are taking place in an effort to establish peace in the area. He noted that a joint committee comprising government and opposition officials has been formed to arrange for a peaceful settlement and to agree on the formation of an all-embracing national committee with the goal of holding a constitutional conference before the end of this year.

Concerning the alternative draft laws known as the new Islamic laws, Al-Mahdi said that the cabinet has discussed the plan, which the Legislation Committee will submit to the Sudanese Constituent Assembly only after it has been debated freely and frankly by all parties.

Commission Says Health Situation 'Reassuring'
*JN2208201588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT
 22 Aug 88*

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA)—The Higher Commission for Health Salvation has stressed that the health situation in the country is reassuring and that no epidemic cases have yet been registered. The commission added that the ailments that have appeared, such as diarrhea and respiratory infections, were within the normal average.

In its report today, the commission said the central laboratory confirmed there is no positive evidence of epidemics in any form despite the country's difficult health circumstances due to rains and floods. The report added the organized performance of the country's health organs has managed to keep health problems at a minimum despite their limited resources. However, environmental health is the only problem facing health work. Curative or preventative (?medicine) cannot be fruitful unless environmental health is improved, the report said. [passage omitted]

SPLA-DUP Joint Statement Released
*EA2208192988 [Clandestine] Radio of the Sudanese
 People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Aug 88*

[Text] Here now is the joint statement by the two delegations of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Sudan People's Liberation army, SPLM-SPLA.