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HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY ■ As South Sudan celebrates their secession, there is still the need to decide upon the rules governing the plebiscite that must take place in the oil producing region of Abyei. Many fear that the mounting tensions in the Abyei could easily explode if the matter is not settled before the end of the transitional government in July.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS ■ According to the SPLM, the success of the referendum has led to a new struggle deemed the post referendum period. With July 2011 fast approaching, the separation of South Sudan from North Sudan is drawing nearer. The post referendum period will focus upon resolving outstanding issues within the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including the Abyei referendum, border demarcation and matters concerning the sharing of the oil revenues. With the exception of SPLM's Members of Parliament from the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan regions, the Sudanese parliament, the National Congress Party, have prematurely terminated membership of all Southern Sudanese representatives MPs.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN ■ Amidst the close of last month's referendum, it is now undeniably apparent that the South will secede from the North. Official tallies of the results showed that 99 percent of the South Sudanese population opted to separate from the North. Perhaps most important is the promise of recognition from Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, whose tone towards the South has become dramatically more conciliatory over the past few months. Oil continues to be a major factor in the economy; new revenue arrangements are being arranged between the North and the South. Violence continues to be a fairly regular occurrence with George Athor's militia executing attacks in Jonglei.

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS ■ As Canada prepares to withdraw from Afghanistan, former Canadian diplomat John Schram believes that Sudan could be Canada's next military mission. Schram predicts that Canada may come under international pressure to step up their involvement in Sudan, in particular from the United States. But with the world's newest nation of South Sudan to culminate by July, many observers have called for caution and restraint in making any commitments to the area, given the fragility of the peace and uncertainty as to how the separation will develop.

DRC DEVELOPMENTS ■ On 17 February, the BBC reported on the release of a South African national, employed by a UK oil firm. The man, whose identity remains unknown, was kidnapped when his vehicle was attacked in North Kivu. The kidnapping of this individual is just the last in a long line of acts of aggression that have occurred in the North Kivu area of the DRC.



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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS //

- 1** The people of South Sudan have voted overwhelmingly for independence. With less than 6 months away from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement coming to a close, there is still much work to be done. In order to avoid future conflicts, the Canadian government needs to focus on facilitating a dialogue between both parties in order to resolve the following outstanding issues (among others):
 1. Border demarcation
 2. Nationality and citizenship
 3. Oil revenue sharing
 4. The future Abyei
 5. Sudan's external debts

- 2** In December 2010, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE) issued a report on the referendum in Sudan, wherein one of the key recommendations reads:

Canada should send a high-level delegation that includes Ministers and parliamentarians to both North and South Sudan immediately following the referendum in order to communicate its continuing interest in a peaceful future for the Sudanese people, including in Darfur. The delegation should assess, with civil society, needs on the ground and establish with governments the most effective types of assistance Canada can contribute toward optimal outcomes.

To signal Canada's continuing commitment to the region and because this recommendation was arrived through a bipartisan committee process, Stand calls for the government to implement this recommendation as soon as the official referendum results have been announced in South Sudan.

- 3** In order to effectively prevent, monitor and address grave human rights abuses and mass atrocities, the Government of Canada should create a Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity which should be attached to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. This would allow parliament to conduct:
 - **MONITORING:** keep MPs informed about the onset of genocide and crimes against humanity, including the identifiable stages of these crimes
 - **PREVENTION:** become proactive in its response to such crises, allowing MPs to act early and utilize a wider set of policy mechanisms
 - **COORDINATION:** centralize Canada's institutional approach to the issue of mass atrocities by giving one central committee the mandate to comprehensively monitor, study and recommend courses of actions.

- 4** On the 30 December 2010, National Congress Party (NCP) withdrew from the Darfur peace negotiations in Doha. Key rebel groups have decided to participate, notably the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the Justice Liberation Movement (JLM) and there are signs that the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLA) is preparing to join the process. It is critical for the NCP to return to the negotiating table because without the central actor, negotiations cannot continue. Canada, in concert with international partners needs to apply pressure on the Khartoum government to re-enter the Doha peace process in order to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement for Darfur.

NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS //

BY CHELSEA SAUVÉ

On account of the results of the January referendum, which secured South Sudan's secession from North Sudan, parliamentary changes have already begun. According to the SPLM, the success of the referendum has led to a new struggle deemed the post referendum period. It is during this time that Salva Kiir, the president of South Sudan and vice-president of Sudan (a position he will relinquish in July when the South becomes officially independent), has suggested that South Sudan will engage in 'a new era of history.' This period will focus upon resolving outstanding issues within the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including the Abyei referendum, border demarcation and matters concerning the sharing of the oil revenues.

This process has already begun. With the exception of SPLM's Members of Parliament (MPs herein) from the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan regions, the Sudanese parliament, the National Congress Party (NCP), have prematurely terminated membership of all Southern Sudanese representatives MPs. As such, the Southern seats of parliament will no longer exist from April onwards, meaning that the Sudanese parliament will continue with 351 seats instead of 450 until the end of its mandate. In accordance with the process of secession, the NCP have removed all articles related to the South and created an interim constitution. The NCP have endorsed all amendments made. In accordance with the new amendments, MPs from the South Sudan ruling party, the SPLM, will not participate in the parliamentary session to be held next April. This situation is said to have angered many Southern MPs. While at least 80% of the border has been demarcated so far, the process of border demarcation between North and South Sudan remains a contentious issue, even after the South voted for independence. Pagan Amum, the southern minister for peace and implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as the SPLM secretary general, has suggested that the demarcation process will involve the mapping of all contested areas (most of which, the SPLM claim should be part of a future South

Sudan). The issue of Abyei is of great debate as well given that the referendum within the oil-producing region has been delayed on account of disputes between the NCP and SPLM regarding who is eligible to vote. The SPLM believe that only the South-aligned Dinka Ngok ethnic group have the right to take part, while the NCP have advocated for the full voting rights of the pastoralist Misseriya who enter Abyei for a few months each year with their cattle.

Many Southern MPs argue that the NCP's premature change to the constitution (which should have lasted until the end of the interim period on July 9th, 2011) is a tactic used by the NCP to remove the South from the intense border demarcations and the issue of Abyei. The SPLM supplements this argument adding that the decision to amend the constitution was made without consultation of the SPLM. SPLM officials have warned that should the Sudanese parliament exclude southern MPs from national institutions prior to the end of interim period, they will stop the sharing of oil revenue before that time as well.

South Sudan is currently in the process of creating a constitution ahead of its secession from the North in July. The Sudan People Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), the party which split from the SPLM in protest of the conduct of last year's elections, has expressed hope that the new country of South Sudan would be democratic with representation from a variety of political parties, not merely the SPLM. They have also suggested that when South Sudan becomes a state of its own, it should have a prime minister as well as a president to encourage power sharing. Additionally, the SPLM-DC has suggested that all democratically elected leaders (who come to power in the elections to be held once the South officially secedes) should serve a maximum of five years. These term limits should be applicable at every level of the new Southern Sudanese government.

Turning to the North of Sudan, it is important to note that ruling officials in the NCP party have confirmed that the current NCP Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, will not run for

re-election in 2015. Instead, Bashir has offered to step down as head of the NCP, as a part of a grander strategy to democratize the state and broaden political participation to younger politicians. Bashir came to power in an Islamist-backed military coup in 1989, is the only current head of state haunted by an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant alleging his role in war crimes and genocide in Darfur.

It has been rumoured that this decision is preventative in nature, as Sudan wishes to avoid the youth led revolutions which have swept the Arab world. Given the political unrest and vast grievances shared by the population of Sudan, it would seem as though such a revolution would be in the making. However, Bashir has denied such allegations and has suggested that he does not fear facing the same fate as Tunisian and Egyptian leaders, thrown out of power by popular uprisings witnessed by the world. Bashir has suggested that his people have no reason for revolution given that his government provides 'complete freedom of opinion' etc. Regardless of Bashir's confidence in his avoiding the revolutions which continue to sweep the Middle East and North Africa, Sudanese youth have been actively using online media to garner support for a planned demonstration hoping to replicate the scenarios of the successful revolutions elsewhere.

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY //

BY PRESTON TAYLOR

As South Sudan celebrates the January referendum that saw an overwhelming vote in favour of southern secession, there is still the need to decide upon the rules governing the plebiscite that must take place in the oil producing region of Abyei. Among the other post-referendum issues that are to be dealt with before the South's official declaration of separation in July are border demarcation, citizenship, oil sharing, national debt and international agreements.

Both the North and South governments are signalling the optimism to work together quickly settle any outstanding disagreements. In a show

of cooperation, a joint task force between the two armies has been set up to help deal with the recent outbreak of violence within the Abyei region. The task force will be moving in to replace the South Sudan police force currently there. Despite this cooperation, there seems to be no common ground for discussion on whether the region will remain a part of the North. Pagan Amum, a spokesperson for the SPLM, has argued that the North is holding the area 'hostage' due to the presence of oil. He believes that if it were not for the oil, the NCP would not be so insistent on the need to include the Misseriya tribe in the plebiscite. Amum states that the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) has always been very clear in their desire to uphold the rights of the Misseriya. The latest attempts to solve the problem seem to be moving away from a vote and towards a political deal. The GoSS has even offered to provide financial compensation in exchange for the region.

In the coming months, many fear that the mounting tensions in the Abyei could easily explode if the matter is not settled before the end of the transitional government in July. However, with neither side willing to compromise, the SPLM has offered to take the issue before an international arbitrator. There has also been movement on the dismissal of all Southern Sudanese from the North's civil and military services due to the fact that both governments have ruled out the possibility of dual citizenship.

DARFUR AND CANADIAN POLITICS //

BY JOHN MATCHIM

As Canadian troops prepare to withdraw from Afghanistan, Sudan could be Canada's next military mission, according to former Canadian diplomat John Schram. Schram, who was the Canadian ambassador to Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Sudan from 1998 to 2002, believes that following the recent referendum Sudan will likely be in need of international support to ensure calm in the war-torn country. According to Schram, Canada may come under international pressure to step up their involvement in Sudan, in particular from the United States. However he predicts such pressure will be met with opposition, as Canada

has “a sceptical public and a non-interventionist government and there’s a sense of weariness and reluctance to do what Americans want us to do.” Schram asked: “After Afghanistan, do Canadians have the stomach for another nation-building program?”

According to a number of members of the military, they do. There is reportedly a belief within the army that Task Force Afghanistan was just the beginning of the establishment of a permanent expeditionary force perennially on foreign missions. There is said to be a belief among some corporals, sergeants and officers that Sudan may be this force’s next destination as the Canadian military searches for a new and vital role to maintain its re-born prestige.

Last year a number of generals tentatively proposed that Canada could take a lead role in the current UN mission in the Congo, however this idea never progressed. According to one Harper Conservatives insider, it made no sense to go from one remote tribal conflict, where Canada has no historical ties and which offers few economic gains, to another.

There have been other arguments raised against military intervention in Sudan. Journalist Scott Taylor argues that Canada should have learned from previous experience that there are drawbacks to making a large-scale and long-term military commitment to a single operation. He says that in the past such operations have left Canada without military resources to commit to other crises, such as the Israeli-Lebanon crisis of 2006. According to Taylor, when it comes to military crises and natural disasters, the ability to respond rapidly and efficiently is crucial, with Canada being well-placed and well-equipped to lead the way in such intervention. He reasons that Canada’s ability to launch such a response would be severely hampered by a large-scale commitment to Sudan.

But a military commitment is not the only way Canada could increase their involvement in Sudan. The deputy principal liaison officer of the new government of south Sudan in Ottawa, Morris Batali, has expressed a desire for Canada to

assist the nation in the construction of refineries for oil production. “We need Canada’s technology to help in that sector,” Mr Batali said.

But with the world’s newest nation of South Sudan to culminate by July, many observers have called for caution and restraint in making any commitments to the area, given the fragility of the peace and uncertainty as to how the separation will develop and the effect it will have on both the north and the south.

DRC: MONUSCO MAKING HEADWAY BUT SUPPORT IS NEEDED//

BY JENNIFER BARNETT

On 17 February, the BBC reported on the release of a South African national, employed by a UK oil firm. The man, whose identity remains unknown, was kidnapped when his vehicle was attacked in North Kivu . The kidnapping of this individual is just the last in a long line of acts of aggression that have occurred in the North Kivu area of the DRC.

Just over 6 months ago, dispute incidents between the DRC army and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) created a situation that resulted in 20,000 people leaving their homes . In response the UN High Commission for Refugees – Mohamed Boukry – stated that it was not known if violent attacks against civilians was the resurgence of a trend thought to be in remission, or simply an isolated episode . This comment was made in lieu of the fact that the previous year alone saw 15,275 cases of rape – the majority of perpetrators armed men – against the civilian female population . Given that the year 2011 began with 50-80 acts of sexual violence by the FDLR at the end of January , attacks against civilians seem more the norm than the exception. Though armed assemblies tend to make aggressive overtures, which are responded to by other armed assemblies, the main victims of these conflicts always tend to be civilians – mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, men, women and children – all just trying to exist. This latest kidnapping of the South African employee of a UK oil firm, combined with the other occurrences since 2009,

demonstrates that attacks against civilians are not isolated incidents, nor should they be dismissed as such. Currently there are several rebel groups operating in the eastern DRC, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Rwandan Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR), which carry out aggressive acts towards civilians .

However, the release of the kidnapped man does seem to be part of a positive trend in the DRC. On 16 February, the UN reported that Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Bisengimana (AKA Sam Mutima-Kunda) defected from the FDLR under the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Repatriation (DDRRR) programme. His defection follows that of three other FDLR officers in the last month . The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in charge of the DDRRR programme, charged with the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights guardians while supporting the stabilization and peace efforts of the DRC government and its partners , do seem to be making headway.

For the time period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, MONUSCO was approved an operating budget of \$1,369,000,000 to meet its mission in the DRC . It appears that this money is being well invested. At the beginning of February, UN peacekeepers rescued six kidnapped national police officers and in an unrelated incident prevented the FDLR from escaping with the plunder from an assault on the town of Mwenga . The 23 February saw the UN announcement of guilty verdicts for rape and other such human right violations by national army (FARDC) personnel. Lt. Col. Kibibi Mutware was reportedly sentenced to 20 years for his January 2011 New Year action of sending his troops to rape, beat and plunder from the civilian population of Fizi. Three officers serving under Mutware were sentenced to 20 years and an additional five soldiers to between 10 and 15 years .

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. On 7 February a shortfall in funds and equipment was reported to the UN Security Council. This may

cause MONUSCO to discontinue support of the electoral process in lieu of others areas of need . With the November election only nine months away, it is vital for the security of the region and the safety of civilians that the electoral process occurs in a democratic and transparent fashion. The budget was allotted for a period of 1 July, 2010 to 30 June 2011, yet money is currently needed to help the DRC to prepare for elections which will occur outside of this time period in November 2011. The shortfall of funds is thus understandable. Given the vast importance of stability in the DRC, the UN would not be amiss to transfer more funds to MONUSCO during this election year. This would aid MONUSCO to continue to make headway in providing stability to the DRC, which would result in the continued improvement in the protection of civilians.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN // BY STEVEN CHUA

With the official results now in, it has become quite apparent that the people of South Sudan have overwhelmingly voted in favour of secession; 99 percent of the population, to be exact. With the undeniably strong voice for secession now present, members of both the domestic and international community have voiced their recognition of South Sudan's independence. Among the domestic officials recognizing South Sudan's independence, perhaps the most important is the statement issued by President Omar al-Bashir, who has formally acknowledged the South's secession. With regard to international recognition, the chairman of the AU has stated that it intends to be the first international body to recognize the newly independent South Sudan. U.S. President Barack Obama has also voiced his intention to recognize South Sudan's sovereignty.

Members of the press view the newly found sovereignty of South Sudan with optimism. While every printing press in the country was previously based in Khartoum, and therefore had to be subject to heavy censorship, South Sudan's Citizen newspaper has now been able to break the mould. By acquiring the first printing press outside of Khartoum, it has managed to become the

first newspaper to be free of the Islamic decency laws and sporadic national security checks that have been a regular practice directed toward the print media in Sudan. Basing this publication outlet in the Southern capital of Juba also presents other advantages. Funding can now come from alternative sources. Whereas strict laws placed a number of exclusions on how the media could obtain revenue, something previously unthinkable in Khartoum is now happening in Juba; beer advertisements have been slated to appear on newspapers. However, freedom of the press in South Sudan is far from being secured. Juba still has yet to establish any laws that guarantee the rights of the media, and the laws currently governing the activities of the press are hazy at best. Nonetheless, this new development has created a spirit of cautious optimism among South Sudanese news outlets.

With regard to economic news, oil continues to be a deciding factor in the affairs of South Sudan. Upon independence, it is likely that the 50-50 profit sharing arrangement between Khartoum and Juba will cease to exist. Instead, the South is eyeing an alternative arrangement upon its official secession in July. It will keep all oil profits, and will instead pay a fee to the North for using its pipelines to transport its oil outside the country. The South is also showing willingness to give grants to the North to soften the blow to their economy and give it time to readjust and seek new revenue streams.

In conflict-related news, militia forces loyal to George Athor, a military officer angered by his loss in last year's election, made several attacks in the Jonglei region leaving at least 211 people dead. Southern officials blame these attacks on the North, purporting that Athor's militia is receiving their funding and weaponry from Khartoum. Northern officials have staunchly denied such claims.

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