
II. Kissinger's Policy of Genocide for Africa

How Kissinger sabotaged Sudanese food independence

by Joseph Brewda

In 1974, in the aftermath of the Kissinger-run Arab-Israeli oil war, the Sudanese and Egyptian governments announced plans to build the Jonglei Canal on the White Nile in southern Sudan. The canal would increase Nile water annual throughput by at least 7% through draining some of the vast southern Sudanese swamps, while opening millions of acres of former swamp land to agriculture in the first phase of the program. Blessed with rich soil, plentiful water, and an ideal climate, it was long known that Sudan could not only become food self-sufficient, but even become the breadbasket for the entire Mideast and African continent, if it were supplied with modern technology. The canal typified the kind of development program that was needed.

The idea of draining the swamps and using the water to increase the Nile's flow had been proposed as far back as 1893, just before Britain occupied the country. In 1912, British engineer William Willcocks outlined the first detailed technical scheme, which he said would increase the Nile's annual flow by over 7 billion cubic meters. But the British government rejected Willcocks's proposal, and a half-dozen subsequent proposals, as "too expensive." By the time of Sudan's independence in 1956, nothing had been done.

But in 1976, the Sudanese and Egyptian governments signed a contract with a French engineering consortium to begin the construction of the canal. The Sudanese authority established to oversee its construction, also planned to develop the entire, previously inaccessible canal region, through providing modern health care, sanitation, and employment for its 250,000 inhabitants, as well as introducing new kinds of crops and the use of animal vaccines and drugs. Discussions were also under way to bring in more than a million Egyptian peasants to supply the workforce for related agricultural projects elsewhere in the underpopulated country.

Around the same time, and in apparent agreement with the Sudanese development program, Saudi King Faisal and other suddenly rich oil-sheiks established a large-scale agricultural investment firm which proffered funds for food export projects in Sudan. The rapid and profitable expansion of Sudanese agriculture in the 1960s had already demonstrated the projects' feasibility, and talk of retaliatory food boycotts against the Arab states, in the aftermath of the 1973

war, greatly increased interest in Sudan.

The Saudi program, which was de facto put under the control of King Faisal's trusted relative, Prince Mohammed al-Faisal, envisioned a 20-year plan, involving \$6 billion of investments—dubbed "Operation Breadbasket." The Saudis offered to create several large firms to produce food for export. These included companies that would have produced 45 million eggs, 7 million chickens, 45,000 tons of milk, 15,000 tons of fruit, and 20,000 tons of fodder, annually. The plan also envisioned increasing wheat production to make Sudan at first self-sufficient, and then a grain exporter to the entire region. This latter scheme was opposed by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, since it called for taking prime cotton-growing land and using it for food production.

British say no

The Sudanese effort to develop food independence flew in the face of longstanding British policy to prevent any such eventuality. Worse, the policy meant that the nations targeted by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's 1974 National Security Study Memorandum 200 and related British anti-population schemes, would be free of the type of food blackmail that Anglo-American policy demanded.

According to NSSM-200, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Nigeria were three of the 13 countries where, Kissinger et al. believed, population growth most threatened U.S. (and British) national security. Direct action was required.

- On March 25, 1975, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was assassinated, shortly after a diplomatic clash with Secretary of State Kissinger. The assailant was a deranged nephew who had a strange circle of friends in Colorado and California.

- On Feb. 13, 1976, Murtala Mohammed, the President of oil-rich Nigeria, was killed by another deranged assailant. Murtala Mohammed, who was an open opponent of Kissinger, had unified the country after the tragic Biafran war, and was committed to using Nigeria's oil resources to develop the country and region both industrially and agriculturally. His successor, Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, reversed this policy. In March 1995, Baroness Chalker, British Minister of Overseas Development, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs attempted to reimpose Obasanjo on Nigeria in

another attempted coup.

● On Sept. 12, 1974, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown soon after he had negotiated an end of the war in southern Sudan. In 1977, Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam took power, and, aided by a group of military officers linked to the U.S. and British Communist parties, slaughtered the leadership of the country. In 1977, Somalia and Ethiopia went to war over the disputed Ethiopian province of Ogaden, creating the conditions for the 1984 famine. Over a million people died as a result.

Faisal was the main foreign sponsor of Operation Breadbasket, and following his murder, his successors not only lost interest in continuing it, but actively moved to sabotage the plan. By 1981, only \$15 million had been spent in Sudan on the plan out of the \$6 billion promised, and that mostly for feasibility studies and consulting. Meanwhile, Sudan had been lured into acquiring a huge short-term debt, in part in a futile attempt to attract petrodollars through developing infrastructure that would only be of use if the plan were actually implemented.

In 1980, Sudan had reluctantly given in to pressure from the International Monetary Fund and abandoned its drive for wheat self-sufficiency. The IMF claimed that Sudan should rather import wheat, which it supposedly would be able to afford by growing cotton for export, on lands formerly used for wheat production.

By late 1981, the IMF demanded massive austerity in the country, while the Saudis treacherously made further investment in the dying plan contingent on Sudan's honoring IMF conditionalities. Among the conditionalities were the prohibition of spare tractor part imports. Tractor "graveyards" were scavenged for parts to keep a dwindling number of machines in the fields. Rather than turning Sudan into the region's breadbasket, the Saudi investment scheme had instead become the means to cripple its development.

Target: Jonglei

But despite this sabotage, the Sudanese effort to build the Jonglei Canal, which had been decided upon prior to any Saudi involvement in Sudanese development, continued. Work on the canal had begun in 1978. By 1983, 51% of the 360-kilometer canal had been built. The completion of the canal, projected to be finished by the mid-1980s, would have vastly increased Sudanese food production, even without any other foreign investment.

Action to stop it was not slow in coming.

In October 1982, the Royal Geographic Society, patronized by Her Majesty the Queen, sponsored an international conference in opposition to the canal entitled "The Impact of the Jonglei Canal in the Sudan." According to the conference speakers, the canal would drastically affect the climate, destroy the fish of the region, and most importantly, cause "dramatic changes in the lifestyle of the Nilotic peoples" living in the disease-infested swamps. The introduction of

modern agriculture and communications, the Royal Geographers complained, would forever change these peoples' primitive way of life.

In May 1983, the British raised a new insurrection in southern Sudan that has continued to this time. Since its independence from Britain in 1956, Sudan has suffered from sporadic southern rebellions of greater or lesser intensity run by the British out of Uganda, Ethiopia, or Kenya, and with the aid of Israel. From a 1972 peace settlement until 1983, the situation had been quiet. Suddenly, a new civil war erupted.

The leader of the new rebellion, Dr. John Garang de Mabior had been a Sudanese Army intelligence officer who had received advanced training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. In 1981, Garang had completed his Ph.D. thesis at Iowa State University on the effect of the canal on the indigenous peoples of the south. Garang is from the Dinka tribe of southern Sudan, whose traditional pastoral way of life was allegedly threatened by the canal.

From the beginning, the prime targets of the new rebellion were the canal worksite and Chevron oil rigs then being constructed to extract Sudan's vast but completely untapped petroleum deposits. By November 1983, attacks by Garang's followers on foreign workers at the canal site forced the suspension of all work on the project. Similar attacks forced the suspension of all oil exploration and extraction.

On March 3, 1984, Garang officially announced the formation of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to lead the rebellion. He specifically labeled the construction of the canal as a primary reason for the insurgency, right at the beginning of his speech: "The general exploitation, oppression, and neglect of the Sudanese people by successive Khartoum regimes took peculiar forms in the southern third of our country. Development schemes that were implemented in the south were those that did not benefit the local population, such as the extraction of oil from Bentiu via the Chevron projects and extraction of water via the Jonglei Canal." In an April 1985 speech, he bragged that no company would ever agree to restart digging the canal, "unless the SPLA gives the green light."

Despite Garang's self-identified "socialist" rhetoric, the SPLA was rapidly joined by former Sudanese Foreign Minister Mansour Khalid, an old friend of George Bush since the days they were ambassadors to the United Nations. Khalid, who is the real brains behind the rebellion, helps direct the United Nations Development Program office in Kenya today. The office plays a central role in providing arms and related aid to the SPLA, working in close coordination with several non-governmental organizations coordinated by Baroness Chalker's Overseas Development Administration and the Royal Household directly. The Royal Geographic Society, the Royal African Society, and Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature, are among the top organizations running the rebellion who are overtly opposed to the canal project out of professed concern for wildlife or indigenous peoples.