

# British instigate war against Sudan

by Linda de Hoyos

The government of Sudan denied an entry visa Jan. 16 to Baroness Caroline Cox, the deputy speaker of the British House of Lords. The reason: The baroness is considered the "mastermind" behind the current crusade emanating from London for the destruction of the government of President Omar al-Bashir.

Cox would find it difficult to defend herself from the charge. In the beginning of December, she led a conference in the House of Lords titled "Peace and Democracy in Sudan: The Development of IGADD and Asmara (NDA) Processes." Although Cox is deputy speaker of the House of Lords, she carries out her anti-Sudan activities under cover of the so-called Christian Solidarity International (CSI), which sponsored the conference.

The Asmara Agreement refers to the June 1995 resolution against Khartoum that emerged from a CSI-sponsored conference in Asmara, Eritrea. IGADD is the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development, composed of Sudan's neighbors, which the British are trying to use as a vehicle for their geopolitical aims.

The House of Lords conference did not hesitate to state its aims. Prominently on hand was John Aibner, of the Institute of Christian Minorities in the Islamic World, who wrote in 1992 that southern Sudan should be granted "self-determination," saying that ultimately Sudan should be divided into five separate States.

Given all the accumulated evidence of Cox's activities, the Sudanese Consultative Council for Human Rights decided to deny the baroness a visa, after a meeting under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Abdel Aziz Shido.

## Military invasions

In the Northeast African quadrant, Sudan is the only country which has maintained a commitment to economic development, particularly food self-sufficiency. Southern Sudan has significant oil deposits, making Sudan potentially a premier developing country in Africa. Such potential and independence have earned it a place in the center of London's target.

But Cox's efforts to organize an effective political opposition to the government in Khartoum have not met with much success. The British press was tooting its horn in October that student demonstrations in Khartoum signified the imminent demise of the Bashir government. But the

unrest quickly sputtered out.

London has turned to military options.

On Jan. 13, the Sudan Armed Forces issued a report that Ethiopian troops had mounted "a continuous armed offensive," including the use of artillery, against Sudan's eastern border posts. Two outposts were seized by Ethiopian troops, although Sudan forces ousted the intruders from one.

Sudan took the report of the attacks to the U.N. Security Council on Jan. 12, so far without redress.

Sudan is now fighting a two-front war against British-instigated forces.

In November, troops of the Ugandan National Resistance Army of President Yoweri Museveni, Britain's "blue-eyed darling in East Africa," invaded southern Sudan on behalf of the otherwise obliterated Sudanese People's Liberation Army of John Garang. The SPLA, which has been armed and supplied from Uganda, had been pushed to the very edge of the Sudan-Uganda border until heavily equipped Ugandan forces came to the rescue.

According to well-informed sources, Eritrean troops are fighting with Uganda in the south. Eritrea broke relations with Sudan in December 1994, at the behest of Uganda. On Jan. 8, Sudan's official newspaper *al-Ingaz al-Watani* reported that Eritrea is also giving military training to the Revolutionary Movement of the Sons of Beja, a branch of the SPLA.

Egypt is reportedly supplying the military effort against Sudan in the south, sending tanks.

Ethiopia, whose war-ravaged economy now faces drought and famine, agreed to become part of the anti-Sudan combine, under the pressure of the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in July 1995 in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Beginning in September, Ethiopia charged that Sudan was responsible for the attempted hit, and has taken the issue to the U.N. Security Council.

The rewards toward Addis Ababa have been flowing. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and other Arab funds are coming into the country to invest in airport expansion in Addis Ababa. The U.N. Development Program, along with Sweden, has also announced a \$117 million grant for agricultural development. And on top of an agreement already worked out with donor countries in September, Ethiopia on Jan. 18 was granted a \$125 million debt moratorium by donor countries.

The military operations against Sudan coming from Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Egypt have nothing to do with the national interests of the people of these countries, but with the pressures exerted on their governments from the British-controlled donors and potential foreign investors—and in the case of Sudan, directly from the House of Lords.

The resolution from Cox's House of Lords conference on Sudan called on the "Friends of IGADD," not otherwise better identified, to get the U.N. Security Council to condemn Khartoum as a terrorist regime, and thus to start an arms and oil embargo.