

thing but hearsay, it was pointed out from the audience, and then confirmed by Mr. Mahdi, that Sudan had ended its open-door policy toward all Arabs and had expelled any foreigners believed to be representatives of organizations carrying out terrorist acts, including from the Islamic Jihad and the Hezbollah.

In conversation with this reporter, Livingston was asked whether the United States had taken any action in concert with Egypt and Israel, which have both protested that terrorist actions directed against their countries were coming from persons and capabilities located in *London—not in Sudan!* Livingston answered that the United States had taken no such

action, because we have decided that Britain “is a free and open society with a tradition of harboring dissidents of other countries, as long as they do not carry out terrorist acts there. But you are right, it is a thorny issue.”

‘The British aren’t a major player’

The next session brought to the fore Ted Dagne, former Congressional aide to Rep. Harry Johnston (D-Fla.), when Johnston was chairman of the Africa Subcommittee in the House. As later remarked by former Congressman Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), who served on the Africa Subcommittee for 12 years, Dagne’s presentation on the civil war in southern

Security Council delays decision on embargo

The United Nations Security Council Nov. 21 delayed for a month a decision on implementing an air embargo against Sudan. The council had decided on Aug. 16 to impose the air ban, but had postponed setting a date for its entry into force for at least 90 days, pending a report from Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The sanctions are to be imposed for Sudan’s supposed failure to hand over three alleged suspects in the June 1995 assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Sudan government, which has cooperated with investigations of the attempt, has maintained that the three suspects are not *in Sudan*, and hence cannot be extradited.

“Sudan hopes the delay will be a chance for weighing facts so that a fair resolution . . . will be adopted by the Security Council,” Mustafa Othman Ismail, the state minister at the Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying.

In May, travel and diplomatic sanctions were placed on Sudan for its failure to hand over the suspects, despite an interview in *Al-Hayat* newspaper in April with suspect Mustafa Hamza, from Afghanistan, in which Hamza said that none of his accomplices were in Sudan and that the Sudanese government had nothing to do with the assassination attempt on Mubarak.

Then again in August, at the behest of Britain and the United States, the UN Security Council passed another resolution for escalated sanctions against Sudan, this time targetting Sudan’s international airlines.

This time, however, when the council discussed the secretary general’s report during private consultations on Nov. 21, France called for a 30-day delay in deciding on a date for the air embargo, to allow time for a report on the humanitarian impact of the new measures. This was supported by Russia and Egypt, whose lead on the Sudan

issue is usually followed by other council members.

Egypt has at various points indicated its reluctance to join intensified efforts to destabilize the Sudanese government, since the plunging of Sudan into chaos would likely cause the blowup of the entire region, threatening Egypt itself.

The air embargo would have dire humanitarian effects, such as preventing imports of medicines and travel abroad by thousands of Sudanese seeking medical treatment. The air embargo, decided in principle in August, would require all countries to deny permission to aircraft registered in Sudan, or leased or operated by Sudan Airways or the Sudanese government, to take off from, land in, or overfly their territory.

There is also news, this time coming from Cairo, that indicates that the three suspects are not in Sudan, making it impossible for Sudan to comply with the resolution. The Egyptian government daily *Al-Ahram* reported Sept. 26 that Hamza and Shmet, the two terrorists accused of the assassination attempt against Mubarak, killed the third terrorist and then fled to Afghanistan and Kenya, respectively. The paper claims that they were in Sudan, but left “before the imposition of the UN Security Council’s sanctions on Sudan.”

Although the paper claims that Sudanese intelligence helped the two escape, the report nonetheless indicates that not even Egyptian intelligence believes any suspects are in Sudan.

While the UN Security Council has delayed action, the Clinton administration has taken new unilateral action against Sudan. On Nov. 22, President Clinton signed a Proclamation for “the suspension of entry as immigrants and non-immigrants of persons who are members or officials of the Sudanese government or armed forces.” The Proclamation states that the motivation for the measure is Sudan’s failure to comply with the UN Security Council Resolutions 1044 and 1054, which demand Sudan’s extradition of the suspects.—*Linda de Hoyos*