

Is Sudan the New Iraq For Bush Administration?

by Scott Thompson

Through staff appointments and other actions, President George W. Bush seems to be preparing to treat the sovereign nation of Sudan it has treated Iraq. According to Nina Shea, Director of Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom, quoted in the June 26 *Washington Times*, Sudan "is the litmus test for us on Bush foreign policy."

One of those Shea means by "us," is Elliott Abrams, who on June 25 left his position as president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, to become Senior Director for Democracy, Human Rights, and International Operations on the National Security Council (NSC). There, Shea said, he will have a special portfolio on Sudan policy. There is a special irony to this appointment, as Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh, in his 1993 *Final Report of the Independent Counsel for Iran/Contra Matters*, dedicated an entire chapter to how Abrams assisted the NSC's Lt. Col. Oliver North in many aspects of this scandal. On the Iran side, the scandal involved trading high-tech weapons for hostages, while on the "Nar-Contra" side, it involved trading arms for cocaine. He was let off the hook by President George Bush, Sr., who granted him an official pardon.

In an interview with this author, Shea named others in her orbit who had received appointments in the Bush Administration dealing with Sudan policy, while boasting of her long-term work to ignite, with the aid of Baroness Caroline Cox, Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords, strategic action against Sudan. Baroness Cox's other hat, is as head of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), a far more militant splinter from Christian Solidarity International (CSI). CSW has branches in the British-American-Commonwealth (BAC) countries.

Upon splintering from CSI, Lady Cox's outfit lost its UN non-governmental organization (NGO) status, because the UN believed that by redeeming alleged "slaves" in southern Sudan, Lady Cox had in fact been encouraging the trade in "slaves." Perhaps more importantly, Lady Cox promoted the terrorist John Garang of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Garang is the biggest slaver in southern Sudan, where he is waging an irregular war. But Lady Cox tried, unsuccessfully, to have him testify before the UN on alleged "human rights" abuses by the legitimate Sudanese government in Khartoum.

Together with Abrams, who was also Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Shea

says she was part of a group known as The Sudan Campaign of Conscience Coalition (SCCC). "We took up Sudan as our first country, and then determined that it was the worst, most violent religious persecutor in the world. . . . So, Elliott's well versed on that."

Another member of Shea's minestrone network on Sudan policy is John Bolton, new Undersecretary of State for Security Affairs in the State Department. He also has Sudan in his portfolio. A third appointee from the Shea circle is Roger Winter, who helped foment some of the worst genocidal wars in Africa during the Clinton Administration, when he worked with Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Susan Rice, who will now head up the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Foreign Disaster Assistance. According to Shea, staving off famine within areas of Sudan under the control of Garang's terrorist army is a major part of Winter's portfolio.

Let God Sort Them Out

Another figure bent upon turning Sudan policy into a replay of the first President Bush's and Lady Margaret Thatcher's Iraqi "Desert Storm," is Rev. Franklin Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham. Franklin Graham, who has run a hospital in a region under the control of Garang's terrorist army in southern Sudan, revealed in an interview that he is "preaching" that the U.S. policy taken toward Iraq, must now be applied to Sudan.

Graham told this author that within the last few weeks, he had met with USAID's new chief, Andrew Natsios, who had been in the elder President Bush's Administration before working with the Bush family-linked World Vision. Graham said Natsios had requested his aid in the distribution of food in the SPLA-controlled region of Sudan. He Graham revealed that he had gone right to the top on the issue: "I talked to [White House chief political adviser] Carl Rove about it [Sudan]," said Graham. "Of course, I talked to the President about this right before the election. And, he assured me that he . . . would not be asleep on this issue."

Asked whether he had conveyed advice to Bush that the United States should become more involved in supporting John Garang militarily, as opposed to Secretary of State Colin Powell's current diplomatic negotiating initiative, Graham said: "Here would be my personal view. Let's try the diplomatic route, and I think that's the most positive thing we could do. But, reserve our other options, because if this government in Khartoum isn't willing to back off *Sharia* law, if they're not willing to free the slaves, then we should treat this government like Saddam Hussein, like we would any of these rogue nations like Serbia. . . . There should be an International Tribunal. [President] Al-Bashir should be tried on war crimes. We should put a no-fly zone in the South, except for relief, but ground their military flights, and make it impossible for this government to do business. And, force them to get rid of Al-Bashir, or change their government."