

**Embassy of the United States of America
Khartoum, Sudan**



Transcript – October 8, 2008 – Republican Palace – Khartoum, Sudan
Following a Meeting with Sudanese Presidential Advisor Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie

Special Envoy Richard Williamson:

Good Afternoon, thank you very much. I appreciate the chance to be back in Sudan, the chance yesterday to visit with Salva Kiir in Rumbek, and in Juba to meet with the SPLA and others. Today, of course, I appreciate the opportunity to meet with Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie, to meet with Salah Gosh, and other leaders of the Government of National Unity. We discussed a variety of items dealing with trying to alleviate humanitarian suffering, bringing security and sustainable peace to Darfur, fully implement the CPA. We shared views and perspectives. It was a very cordial, exhaustive and constructive talk, and we shared our hope that substantive progress can be made, that President Bush is completely committed to a better humanitarian situation in Sudan, both in Darfur and in southern Sudan, that progress can be made. And our attention is going to be on pragmatic, practical results. We are not concerned about the process or promises but with the results. I think we had a good exchange of views and we look forward to continue our dialogue with Dr. Nafie and other representatives of the Government of National Unity.

Questions from *Al-Jazeera*:

Is this meeting a continuation of the previous dialogue between Khartoum and Washington? Are there any new proposals with regards to solving the Darfur issue? The U.S has recently cautioned its citizens from traveling to Sudan, particularly to Darfur. Can you tell us why?

Special Envoy Richard Williamson:

Well, in a sense it's a continuation. I have appreciated the opportunity to have candid exchanges with Dr. Nafie, with Salah Gosh, and others. I think we have built a rapport where we can be candid with one another. There are many issues we do not see the same way but we had candid discussions about those as well. So, it is a continuation, in that sense. Second, with respect to Darfur, we are very concerned about some of the civilian innocent casualties that have happened in recent weeks, the Kalma Camp violence, where 30 to 89 people were killed and a couple of hundred casualties were taken. We are concerned about the raid at Zamzam Camp. We are concerned about the violence that created so many deaths in Bere village and other bombardments that have taken place. We are concerned that there continues to be violence on innocent victims in Darfur. That is unacceptable. We are concerned that humanitarian access is not greater. But we do appreciate, and I want to emphasize this, we do appreciate that the Government of Sudan is being more cooperative with the United Nations peacekeeping operation. We appreciate that efforts are being made for greater humanitarian access. And, there is a lot that still needs to be done, but there has been some progress.

Question from Sanaa Abbas of *Akhar al-Youm*:

You made a statement in *The Washington Post* that mentioned new recommendations for the peace process in Darfur but, until now, nothing has taken place, what is the reason for that?

Special Envoy Richard Williamson:

On Darfur, I already addressed our concerns about the violence that is continuing, and our concerns about humanitarian access being restricted. And I have also noted that the Government of Sudan has presented greater cooperation with UNAMID and is taking some steps to help humanitarian assistance. We take note of the agreement that was made between Vice-President Taha and Minni Minnawi. I talked to Vice President Taha about that discussion, and I talked to Minni Minnawi this morning. There are many positive elements in that agreement and, if fully implemented, would be a significant step. We also know that there is a process going on that is being discussed, with respect for an initiative for an all-inclusive dialogue. Dr. Nafie has been kind enough to share some of those elements with me. I don't think it would be appropriate for me to discuss the specifics of that or comment on it. Bottom line once again - the U.S. does not care so much about the process or promises, we care about a deal and performance. Thanks very much.

For further information, please contact the U S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section
ولمزيد من الاستفسار، المرجو الاتصال بمكتب الشؤون العامة بالسفارة الأمريكية بالخرطوم على الهاتف
at 0183-774-700