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SUDAN NEWS-FEED

August 9, 2005

SUDAN NEWS-FEED For Tuesday, August 9, 2005

**Compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.
The Sudan News-Feed attempts to present a summary covering the spectrum of Sudanese
press and international reporting about Sudan.
This report summarizes and covers the news but does not necessarily reflect the views of
the U.S. Government.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Crawford, Texas)

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2005

President George W. Bush today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to Juba, Sudan to attend the funeral of First Vice President Garang on August 6, 2005.

The Honorable Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, will lead the delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation are:

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, U.S. Representative

The Honorable John Limbert, U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Sudan

The Honorable Constance Berry Newman, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

The Honorable Roger P. Winter, Special Representative of the Deputy Secretary of State for Sudan

Top Headlines from the Sudanese Press

The following are top headlines from the Sudanese press on August 9, 2005:

******NOTE: "The Juba Post" (independent English-language weekly) has been suspended again, allegedly for not being able to pay the National Press Council's license fee (approximately \$10,000).**

"Khartoum Monitor"-- independent with pro-Southern Sudan orientation daily English-language newspaper

- Salva Kir to Take Oath Thursday
- Vice President Leaves for Juba Today
- Abel Alier Appointed Chairman of Investigation Committee
- Editorial: CPA is Yours
- Museveni Remarks Upset Sudan
- Garang Buried as Sudanese Hope for Peace
- Prayers for Peace at Garang's Funeral
- Southerners Should Not Mourn As If They Are Left With Nothing
- Gender Equality In Sudan
- Our Condolences to Rebecca
- Social Contract According to Jean Jacque Rousseau
- Commentary (regular columnist): The Death of Dr. John Garang: Implications and Complications
- Commentary (regular columnist): Re-Thinking Security Issues; HIV/AIDS

"Sudan Vision"-- pro-GOS daily English-language newspaper

<http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com>

- Salva Kiir To be Sworn in As First VP Thursday
- NCP, NDA Negotiations to Detail Cairo Agreement Continue
- High Level Committee to Probe First VP Plane Crash
- Bahr Jebel Administrative Supervisor Honors Gen. Sumbeiywo, Juba Return to Calm
- American Officials in Khartoum Expressed Optimism Sunday August 7, that Sudan Peace Would Hold and that a Strong Unified Leadership Would Continue Forward
- AU Informs Government About Resumption of Abuja Talks
- Vice President Affirms Commitment to CPA Implementation
- U.S. Experts Arrive in Kenya to Assist in Probe of Garang Chopper Crash
- Will Bush Change U.S. Policies as Well as Their Presentation?

- Negotiating Gender in Low-Income Cairo (3): Article by Dr. Heba Al-Kholi
- President of the Republic Inaugurates a Number of Petroleum and Service Establishments
- Minister of Energy and Mining Reveals About Settling Petroleum Industry in the Country
- Bashir and Late Dr. Garang Inaugurate Development Partnership in Foulj
- Campaign Against Measles to Begin In South Darfur
- EPI Director: Measles Kill Millions of Children
- Editorial: The Inquiry Commission Priorities
- Commentary (regular columnist): Let Us Have Faith in The CPA
- Commentary (regular columnist): Salva Kiir Leads, History Runs Inevitable Course Again

“Al-Ayaam”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alayaam.net>

- Formation of National Committee to Investigate Into VP Plane Crash
- Dr. Nafie Calls on U.S. Administration to Fulfill Pledges for Supporting Peace in Sudan
- GOS Submits Queries to Ugandan Ambassador in Khartoum
- EU Reiterates Commitment to Supporting Peace in Sudan
- Abel Alier Head of National Committee to Investigate Into VP Plane Crash
- Kiir Arrives Khartoum Tomorrow and Swears in As Vice President on Thursday
- Foreign Minister Discuss with Darfur Committee Means for Combating Violence Against Women
- Taha Visits Juba Today
- NDA: The Absence of Garang Led to Postponement of NDA Participation in Power
- Editorial: Our Parties Are Without Identity
- Commentary (senior editor): Attempts to Besiege Kiir

“Al-Adwaa”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Unknown Corpse Found in VP Plane Wreckage
- Foreign Ministry Demands Details of Meeting Between VP Garang and Museveni
- Kiir Arrives Khartoum Tomorrow
- Heavy Rainfall Causes Fall of Houses in North Darfur
- Formation of Committee to Investigate Riots in Khartoum
- Constitutional Court Reviews Demand for Release of Members of the Popular Congress Party
- Sudanese Lawyer Magdi Saleem Still Arrested Following Incidents in Al-Jazeera University
- Commentary (regular columnist): Judgment Day in Khartoum and the Coma of Security Authorities

“Alwatan ”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
alwataan@myway.com

- Reports On Changes Inside SPLA Leadership

- Taha Leaves to Juba
- Kiir Arrives Khartoum Tomorrow and Swears in As Vice President on Thursday
- GOS Affirms Participation in Abuja Talks
- Commentary (regular columnist): Inflation Rates in Sudan

“Al-Anbaa” -- the Government-owned daily Arabic-language newspaper
www.alanbaa.info

- Kiir Swears in as Vice President On Thursday
- Abel Alier Head of Investigation Committee for VP Plane Crash
- Paulino Mattep Forces Ready To Reconcile with SPLA Forces
- Taha Leaves for Juba Today
- EU Ambassador Present Condolences to MFA on the Death of VP Garang
- Two Thousand Chadian Families Return to West Darfur

“Al-Rai Al-Aam” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.rayaam.net>

- Joint Committee Headed by Abel Alier to Investigate VP Plane Crash
- Ugandan Minister of Interior: Unknown Corpse Found In Garang’s Plane
- Minister of State At MFA Describes Winter’s Statements As Not Bing Accurate
- Winter: I am Not Concerned About Kiir Propensity to Separation
- Salva Kiiir Arrives in Khartoum Tomorrow and Vice President Taha Leaves to Juba
- GOS Holds Contacts With British Government Regarding the Release of Sudanese Detainees in London
- GOS Affirms Participation in Abuja Talks
- Will Insurance Companies Cover The Damage on Cars and Stores Following the Incidents of Last Monday?

“Al-Sahafa”-- pro-GOS but increasingly independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alsahafa.info/news>

- Kampla: Unknown Corpse in the Wreckage of Garang’s Plane
- GOS Calls on U.S. Administration to Support Peace in Sudan
- Formation of National Committee to Investigate Into VP Plane Crash
- Kiir Arrives Khartoum on Wednesday and Swears in As Vice President on Thursday
- Joint Committee Between the GOS And the SPLA to Asses Damage In Juba
- Arrest of Member of Justice and Equality Movement With Charges of Espionage
- Commentary (regular columnist): On the Formation of An Investigating Committee
- Commentary (outside contributor): Mend the Social Fabric Before Realizing the Peace Agreement

“Al-Hayat” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alhayatsdn.com>

- Ugandan Minister of Interior: Unknown Corpse in the Wreckage of Garang’s Plane
- President Al-Bashir Receives Phone Call from President Bush
- GOS: Contacts Between Dr. Al-Turabi and Salva Kiir Are Not of a Concern to Us
- Arrest of Member of Justice and Equality Movement With Charges of Espionage
- Prices Increase in Juba Following Closing of Stores

“Al-Khartoum” - pro-Democratic Unionist Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- GOS and NDA Agree on Nationalization of Legislative and Executive Bodies
- Formation of National Committee Regarding VP Plane Crash
- Taha Leaves to Juba
- Foreign Minister: Summoning of Ugandan Ambassador Does Not Imply Any Accusation to His Government
- Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Demands Protection to Northerner Merchants in Juba
- Editorial: Investigating Committee and the Aspirations of the Future

“Alwan”-- pro -Popular Congress Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Khartoum Summons Ugandan Ambassador
- Kiir Arrives Khartoum on Wednesday and Swears in As Vice President on Thursday
- EU Countries Affirm Commitment to Supporting Peace in Sudan
- GOS: Contacts Between Dr. Al-Turabi and Salva Kiir are Not of a Concern to Us
- Commentary (regular columnist): Our Political Parties

“Al-Sharia Al-Siyasi” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Khartoum Summons Ugandan Ambassador to Inquire About Circumstances Surrounding VP Garang Plane Crash
- GOS Receives Notification on Resumption Date of Abuja Talks
- Taha Visits Juba Today
- Editorial: Washing off Sadness

“Al-Wifaq” --pro-GOS, anti Western daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Unknown Corpse Found in Wreckage of VP Plane and U.S. Is Fishing in Dirty Water
- Dr. Al-Turabi: We Refuse to Use the Incidents of Last Monday to Ignite Sedition
- Umma Party is Not Under Pressure to Reconcile with Mubark Al-Fadil
- Editorial: With Calmness We Can Surpass the Incidents of Last Monday

The following articles from the Sudanese and international press are included in full in the attachment below.

The Washington Times

Sudan Totters, Again

August 9, 2005

The Boston Globe

Unsettled in Sudan

August 9, 2005

Editorial

Reuters

Swearing In Of Sudan's New Vice President Delayed

August 9, 2005

Reuters

Sudan To Present Report On Garang's Death

By Opheera McDoom

August 9, 2005

Reuters

Bush Thanks Garang's Widow For Urging Calm

August 9, 2005

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Bush Phones Garang's Widow, Bashir

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Xinhua

US Says Garang's Dies Accidental

August 9, 2005

Xinhua

Ugandan Newspaper Warned Of Reporting On Garang's Crash

August 9, 2005.

AFP

Sudan To Probe Garang Helicopter Crash

August 9, 2005

AFP

US Plane Flies African Police To Darfur For Peacekeeping Mission

August 8, 2005

AFP

Garang Successor Faces Huge Challenge After Swearing-In

August 8, 2005

Other websites for Sudan News:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/May/12-676357.html?chanlid=washfile>

<http://www.state.gov>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.Sudanmirror.com>

Sudan Radio Service

<http://www.Sudanradio.org>

<http://Sudan.net>

<http://www.Sudantribune.com>

<http://smcSudan.net>

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team website

<http://www.cpmtSudan.org>

IRIN News (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs--SUDAN page)

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=Sudan

UN News Centre (SUDAN page)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88&Body=Sudan&Body1>

Relief Web (SUDAN page):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-636PJQ&rc=1>

Alertnet (SUDAN page)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/246397.htm>

Humanitarian Information Center for Darfur:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/default>

Al Bab: Khartoum Handbook and Diary

<http://www.coreSudan.com>

Refugees International:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org>

NATO

<http://www.nato.int/>

U.S. European Command

<http://www.eucom.mil/english/index.asp>

Sudan Totters, Again
The Washington Times

August 9, 2005

The death of Sudan's vice president and former rebel leader John Garang could not be more unfortunate. His passing threatens the already vulnerable peace and power-sharing deal that has ended a two-decade long civil war between the government in the north and fighters in the south of the country. The north-south civil war in Sudan killed about two million people and caused a severe famine and refugee crisis. The Bush administration, former Secretary of State Colin Powell in particular, was deeply involved in mediating a peace accord that was signed in January and brought Mr. Garang into the government a few weeks ago. U.S. officials should be prepared to continue helping to maintain the peace.

Mr. Garang and 13 others died when their helicopter crashed in the mountains of southern Sudan. Violent riots have followed his death in the capital Khartoum and other towns. At least 130 have been killed and hundreds more injured.

What Sudan mostly needs now is a transparent investigation of the crash. Sudanese President Omar Bashir has taken the important step of allowing a panel of aviation experts from Uganda, Kenya, the United States, Britain and Russia to investigate. That probe could do much to ratchet down tensions. Mr. Garang's former rebel group, Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), has also tried to quell the riots by calling on the Sudanese people to patiently await the investigation's results. This reasonable rhetoric must continue, or the rioting could spiral out of control.

Sadly, not all leaders have given voice to reason. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has already begun speculating out loud that Mr. Garang was intentionally targeted and killed. Mr. Museveni, who was the owner of the helicopter Mr. Garang was traveling in, told a large crowd of mourners last week: "Some people say accident, it may be an accident, it may be something else."

Given the timing of Mr. Garang's death and the violence that has prevailed between the north and south, it is hardly implausible that people might have wanted to kill him. Still, Mr. Garang was flying through some difficult terrain and there is no hint or evidence of foul play. Mr. Museveni should therefore refrain from unnecessarily inflaming tensions ahead of the results of the investigation. If Mr. Garang was indeed assassinated, the perpetrators could well have been trying to instigate another outbreak of ethnic violence. Mr. Museveni and others should be careful not to aid and abet such violence.

Mr. Garang's successor as vice president and chief of SPLM, Salva Kiir, now faces the difficult task of not only keeping the north-south peace accord together, but also brokering an agreement

with rebels from the ravaged western region of Darfur. As a rebel leader, Mr. Garang carried high hopes of striking a trust and dialogue with Darfur rebels. If Mr. Kiir is to be a true statesman for Sudan, he must look beyond the needs of his people in the south, and also defend the Darfurians, who, according to Mr. Powell, have been victims of genocide perpetrated by government-back marauding tribes. The violence in Darfur has killed tens of thousands and forced about 2 million from their homes. The head of Doctors Without Borders International, Dr. Rowan Gillies, said last week, "Our teams are still witnessing repeated violence against the population."

President Bush has dispatched two envoys to Sudan: Constance Newman, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Roger Winter, special envoy for Sudan. Those U.S. officials have met with Mr. Kiir. If the investigation rules out foul play in Mr. Garang's death, then those U.S. officials should help reestablish goodwill between the north and south.

Ultimately, it is the Sudanese people who will decide if they will let Mr. Garang's death propel them back into ruinous war, but top U.S. officials must be prepared to shepherd the two sides back towards mutual trust, if need be, and urge other leaders to avoid incendiary rhetoric. If poverty and instability are indeed fodder for global terrorism, then Sudan's fate is a global concern.

Unsettled in Sudan

The Boston Globe

August 9, 2005

Editorial

August 7, 2005 — Dozens died in rioting last week in Khartoum, Sudan's capital. The rioters, from southern Sudan, suspected foul play in the helicopter accident last weekend that took the life of John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Whether Garang was the victim of political murder or bad luck, there are few more pressing peace-building missions in the world today than to preserve the peace agreement he signed for southern Sudan in January, formally ending 21 years of warfare that pitted the central government in Khartoum against Christian and animist tribal groups of southern Sudan.

The death toll in that conflict surpassed 2 million. Its causes included a push by the Khartoum regime to Islamize the Dinka and Nuer peoples of the south as well as a southern desire for independence and a dispute over the rights to Sudan's recently exploited oil reserves. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January represents an arduously wrought set of compromises. It calls for northerners and southerners to share power, free and fair elections, and self-government in the south for an interim period of six years. At the end of that period, a referendum is to be held that would allow the peoples of the south to vote for independence.

Even before Garang's death, there were worries that the peace accord might never be implemented. The National Islamic Front regime in Khartoum has been noticeably slow to move toward the power-sharing and elections mandated by the January agreement.

Now that Garang is gone, there is a greater need than ever for the parties to the conflict and the international community to make sure the agreement is implemented. Garang's successor, his chief deputy, Salva Kiir, will have to oversee the difficult transformation of the SPLM's secessionist fighting force into a political party. In so doing, he will have to delegate more authority than Garang did and consult more with other leaders.

The regime in Khartoum will have to rein in its proxy militia in the south, known as the South Sudan Defense Forces. That militia must be demobilized, just as Khartoum's murderous proxy militia in Darfur, the Janjaweed, will have to be shut down if the ongoing genocide in that region of Sudan is to be stopped.

The UN mission in southern Sudan should swiftly spread its peacekeepers throughout the region. They are needed to cut off arms supplies to militias, protect the civilian population, and intervene quickly wherever militias initiate violence. The world has a chance to help end the most lethal conflict of the past two decades. Garang's death must not become an excuse for allowing southern Sudan to relapse into the disasters of war.

Swearing In Of Sudan's New Vice President Delayed

Reuters

August 9, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 9 (Reuters) - The swearing in of Salva Kiir as Sudan's first vice president has been delayed so that officials can pay their respects to the widow of his predecessor John Garang who died in a helicopter crash last week, the presidency said on Tuesday.

Kiir, Garang's deputy and military chief, had been due to be sworn in on Tuesday in the capital Khartoum.

"The second vice president (Ali Osman Mohamed) Taha will be going to Juba on Tuesday to pay his respects to Rebecca Garang," a source at the presidency told Reuters. "No other date has been fixed for the swearing in ceremony yet," he said.

Garang, who led southern rebels in a civil war that lasted more than two decades, signed a peace deal in January and died just three weeks after becoming first vice president as part of the peace accord.

News of his death led to charges of foul play among the large southern community in Khartoum and sparked three days of riots that killed 111 people and injured more than 300, the worst violence in the capital in decades.

Garang was buried amid emotional scenes in Juba, the southern capital, on Saturday as President Omar Hassan al-Bashir promised mourners he would push on with the peace plan and soldiers of both sides carried the coffin in a show of unity.

The southern civil war, which claimed 2 million lives, broadly pitted the Khartoum-based Islamist government against the mostly Christian and animist south, complicated by issues of oil, ethnicity and ideology.

The peace deal, which ended Africa's longest war, provides a new coalition government, wealth and power sharing, democratic elections and a southern referendum on secession from the north within six years.

It does not cover a separate conflict in the country's western Darfur region, which has killed tens of thousands and forced more than 2 million from their homes.

Sudan To Present Report On Garang's Death

Reuters

By Opheera McDoom

August 9, 2000

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Sudan will present a report by September 1 into the cause of a helicopter crash that killed former rebel leader and First Vice President John Garang, the government said on Monday.

The president will also establish a national commission on Monday with Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to oversee a technical committee already gathering evidence, Civil Aviation Minister Ali Tamim Fartak said.

"We have requested a visa for the committee to go to Uganda to collect information about the plane, the refuelling, the maintenance record of the plane, the black box and the voice box," Fartak told Reuters.

Garang was travelling on Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's helicopter back to southern Sudan after a meeting with him on July 30 when it disappeared from radar screens.

The helicopter flew into a cliff face near an SPLM stronghold in the south, killing all 14 people on board.

Museveni has said he did not rule out the possibility the crash was not an accident. Garang was buried on Saturday in a state funeral in the southern town of Juba.

Garang signed a peace deal with the government in January ending Africa's longest civil war in the south.

Just 3 weeks before his death he returned in triumph to Khartoum to take up the position of first vice president alongside his former enemies.

RIOTING

Garang's death sparked the worst rioting in Khartoum in decades as 111 people were killed and more than 300 injured over 3 days.

Fartak said the government would welcome help with the investigation from any country or organisation. The United States has offered to send five experts.

"I have given them four weeks so that they can present their preliminary report," Fartak said. The technical committee, which has seven government experts and would be joined by an unspecified number of SPLM officials, began work on August 1, he said.

Fartak said the SPLM was welcome to hold an independent investigation, but any investigation should include the government as the crash occurred on Sudanese soil.

Many southerners suspect foul play and do not want government involvement in the investigation.

U.S. President George W. Bush telephoned Garang's widow on Monday to offer his condolences and thank her for calling for calm in Sudan, the White House said.

"He offered his condolences on behalf of himself and the American people on the death of her husband," spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"He also thanked her for calling for calm in Sudan. The United States is resolved to continue supporting implementation of the comprehensive peace accord to honour her husband's vision."

Asked if the United States suspected that the helicopter crash was not an accident, Duffy replied: "Not at this point."

Bush Thanks Garang's Widow For Urging Calm

Reuters

August 9, 2005

President George W Bush yesterday telephoned the widow of former Sudanese rebel leader John Garang to offer his condolences and thank her for calling for calm in Sudan, the White House said.

“He offered his condolences on behalf of himself and the American people on the death of her husband, Vice President John Garang,” spokesman Trent Duffy said aboard Air Force One as Bush flew to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“He also thanked her for calling for calm in Sudan. The United States is resolved to continue supporting implementation of the comprehensive peace accord to honor her husband’s vision.” Garang died in a helicopter crash on July 30, three weeks after he was sworn in as vice-president. His death has raised fears a January deal to end 21 years of conflict in Sudan might collapse.

Bush thanked Rebecca Garang for the hope that her husband brought to the Sudanese people for “a democratic united and peaceful nation,” Duffy said.

The Ugandan presidential helicopter Garang was traveling in went down in bad weather in mountainous terrain and his supporters have said they do not suspect foul play. But Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said the cause of the crash was unclear.

Bush Phones Garang's Widow, Bashir

Reuters

August 9, 2005

WACO, Texas, Aug 8 (Reuters) - President George W. Bush on Monday stressed U.S. support for keeping Sudan's peace process going in phone calls to Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and to the widow of former Sudanese rebel leader John Garang.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said Bush called Bashir as he returned to Texas from a trip to New Mexico. Bush "stressed the need to keep the peace process moving forward at this delicate moment."

He welcomed President Bashir's commitment to implement the comprehensive peace agreement because it sends a positive message to the Sudanese people, Duffy said.

In addition, Bush underscored the importance of the Darfur peace talks in Abuha.

In the phone calls to Bashir and Rebecca Garang, widow of John Garang, Bush offered U.S. condolences over Vice President Garang's death in a helicopter crash on July 30.

Duffy said Bush thanked Mrs. Garang for calling for calm in Sudan. "The United States is resolved to continue supporting implementation of the comprehensive peace accord to honor her husband's vision," he said.

Garang died in a helicopter crash on July 30, three weeks after he was sworn in as vice-president. His death has raised fears a January deal to end 21 years of conflict in Sudan might collapse.

Bush thanked Rebecca Garang for the hope her husband brought to the Sudanese people for "a democratic united and peaceful nation," Duffy said.

The Ugandan presidential helicopter Garang was traveling in went down in bad weather in mountainous terrain and his supporters have said they do not suspect foul play. But Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said the cause of the crash was unclear.

Asked if the United States suspected that the helicopter crash was not an accident, Duffy replied: "Not at this point."

The United States has sent officials from the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the crash. He said the investigators were requested by the Sudanese and Ugandan governments.

US Says Garang's Dies Accidental

Xinhua

August 9, 2005.

WASHINGTON, Aug 8, 2005 (Xinhua) — The United States said on Monday that Sudanese First Vice President John Garang's death was accidental but it supported a full and transparent investigation of the helicopter crash that killed Garang.

"We certainly don't have any information to suggest that the crash was anything but accidental. We support a full investigation and full transparency concerning what happened to the aircraft," State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said at a briefing.

Ereli said that at the request of Uganda and Sudan, the United States has agreed to assist with the investigation.

"We've got a five-member team of the National Transportation Safety Board that arrived in Nairobi on Friday and is today on route to the site of the crash where they'll begin their investigation," he said.

"But again, as far as we're aware, the crash was accidental," he added.

Garang and 13 others were killed on July 30 when Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's Russian-made Mi-172 helicopter in which they were taking to return to Sudan from Uganda crashed in the hills of southern Sudan.

Garang, a former southern rebel leader, was sworn in as first vice president only on July 9

Ugandan Newspaper Warned Of Reporting On Garang's Crash

Xinhua

August 9, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug. 9 (Xinhua) -- The Ugandan government has warned a local weekly newspaper, Red Pepper, against its report on Sudanese first vice president John Garang's helicopter crash in southern Sudan on July 30, according to state-owned newspaper The New Vision on Tuesday.

Ugandan Minister of State for Information James Nsaba Buturo, who is also the government spokesman, was quoted as saying that "I have called the Red Pepper editors to give them the last warning or else we shall clamp down on them."

Buturo, who speaking at a news briefing on Monday in Kampala, denied a press report that Garang's body was found with bullet wounds.

He described the report as baseless and untrue, adding that "the president is very concerned about such a baseless report after Sudanese officials called us to find out if the report was true."

He warned that "if people continue writing such things which can cause conflict between countries, we shall have no option but to clamp down on them."

Buturo pointed out that "the story has caused panic in Sudan. The government will have to restrain such reporting or there will be chaos."

Meanwhile, The New Vision reported that President Yoweri Museveni will on Wednesday lead the national mourning ceremony for seven Ugandans who died in a helicopter crash along with Garang.

The Ugandan government has declared Wednesday a public holiday and will hold national prayers at Kololo Airstrip for the seven crew members who died in the helicopter crash.

After the national ceremony, the bodies will be transported to respective places of burial.

Sudan To Probe Garang Helicopter Crash

AFP

August 9, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 8 (AFP) — Sudan said Monday it had formed a committee to probe the death of first vice president and former rebel leader John Garang when a Ugandan helicopter crashed on its way to south Sudan from Uganda.

"A higher national committee has been formed to investigate the crash of Dr. John Garang's aircraft in southern Sudan," Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters here.

He said the seven-man committee comprises six aviation experts; three representing the Sudanese government and three from the former rebel group that Garang headed, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Ismail added that the government had chosen former Sudanese vice president Abel Alier, a southerner who like Garang hails from the Dinka tribe, to head the body and be the seventh member of the committee.

"Abel Alier shall head the committee as a national figure," the minister said.

The move comes a few days after Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni suggested that the crash, initially blamed on bad weather in the mountainous region of south Sudan, may not have been an accident.

Museveni's comments triggered angry reactions from Sudanese authorities, but the foreign minister denied that it had had an adverse effect on relations with Kampala.

"There is nothing to justify any tensions in relations," he argued.

But he called on the Ugandan side to cooperate fully with the Sudanese committee.

"What we want is transparent cooperation from Uganda with the national committee," he said.

Earlier in the day, the minister said he summoned the Ugandan ambassador in Khartoum to request additional information "related to Dr. Garang's visit to Kampala" and about the "crash" of his helicopter.

Ismail said he had also formed a foreign ministry committee to help gather any information from foreign countries that would help the investigation.

US plane flies African police to Darfur for peacekeeping mission

AFP

August 08, 2005

STUTTGART, Germany, Aug 8 (AFP) - An American civil aviation aircraft flew 49 civilian police officers from Rwanda to the war-torn Sudanese region of Darfur Sunday in response to a request from the African Union (AU) to NATO, said a US military press statement released Monday.

The statement said the movement of civilian police by US contracted commercial aircraft began July 14 as part of the African Union's expanded mission in Sudan.

"The AU wanted to move the civilian police into theater as quickly as possible, said Brigadier General Richard Mills, who is overseeing the operation from the United States European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart.

"Once we were notified, a plan went into action to rapidly transport them, space available, with the ongoing deployment of the second Rwandan military battalion." said Mills.

As part of a larger NATO effort, the US is airlifting three battalions of Rwandan troops and cargo to Darfur by mid-September.

The AU plans to increase its presence in the region to more than 7,700 personnel by September.

In July President Bush authorized an additional six million dollars (4.8 million euros) in emergency funding to transport AU troops to Darfur.

Garang Successor Faces Huge Challenge After Swearing-In

AFP

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KHARTOUM, Aug 8 (AFP) - Salva Kiir is to be sworn in as Sudan's first vice president this week, facing the mammoth tasks of carrying on the legacy of his charismatic predecessor John Garang and implementing a precarious peace agreement.

One of the first challenges for Kiir, the former southern rebel military chief, will be to form a national unity government with former arch-foe President Omar al-Beshir -- a process interrupted by the death of Garang in a helicopter crash on July 30.

Kiir, who replaced Garang as head of the Sudan People Liberation's Movement/Army (SPLM/A), is to be sworn in on Thursday, according to the state news agency SUNA, after earlier reports the ceremony would be held Tuesday.

"There are some issues which were not resolved before the death of the late doctor John Garang, particularly nominations to the national unity government, the national assembly and to state councils," SPLM/A deputy chairman Riek Machar was quoted as saying.

The reconciliation cabinet and an autonomous government in south Sudan were due to be installed by August 9, in line with a January peace deal that ended 21 years of north-south war in which two million people died.

Kiir will have to help solve disputes surrounding oil-rich areas on the north-south border and continue talks led by Garang with several Khartoum-backed southern militia chiefs with a view to rallying them to the peace agreement.

Kiir has pledged to continue in Garang's footsteps and carry on his dream for a democratic and prosperous Sudan, which does not discriminate against citizens on the basis of race, creed, gender or ethnicity.

"I say it loud and clear that the SPLM is a vehicle with no reverse gear," Kiir said in a speech during Garang's funeral ceremony last Saturday. "I reiterate my commitment to the implementation of all the clauses of the (peace deal)," he promised.

The United States, which invested much political capital into securing the January 9 pact, has expressed confidence in the SPLM and Kiir's ability to uphold the deal.

"They have intellect, a track record, and modes of resolving problems internally and a mighty deal," US special representative for Sudan Roger Winter said while in Sudan for Garang's funeral.

Fears about the future of the peace deal were sparked in the immediate aftermath of Garang's death when 130 people were killed in apparent inter-communal rioting between northerners and southerners.

UN special envoy in Sudan Jan Pronk has urged Kiir to push for a quick resolution of territorial quarrelling over oil-rich areas in central Sudan.

"The problem is not in the north or south. The problem is on the fringes of central Sudan," he has said.

Pronk was asked by Beshir to help mediate the dispute, particularly between the Arab Misariyah and African Dinka Ngok tribes over ownership of territory in the oil-rich Abyei region.

The Misariyah have rejected the boundaries proposed by an international commission for the district while the Dinka -- to which Kiir belongs -- insisted the area was part of south Sudan.

At any rate and until a 2011 referendum on secession is held in line with the peace deal, oil wealth is to be shared and concessions awarded by a joint oil commission. Most oil fields lie in the south.

Southern residents will be asked at the end of a six-year period whether they want to secede from the north.

In the case of Abyei and two other disputed districts -- the Nuba mountains and the southern Blue Nile -- both northerners and southerners will vote in a separate referendum on their future status.

But while Kiir may have much on his plate, important aspects of the peace deal were already implemented during Garang's life.

These include the enforcement of a permanent ceasefire and the drafting and ratification of a six-year interim constitution for the country.

During the four first years of the interim period and until general elections are held, Beshir's National Congress Party will have 52 percent of executive posts and legislative seats and the SPLM 28 percent.

Fourteen out of the remaining 20 percent will go to northern opposition parties, with the remaining six percent to be split among other southern groups.

Officials said they expected Kiir's swearing in ceremony to be modest compared to that of Garang, which was attended by a host of international dignitaries and regional leaders.