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OFFICE OF UN RESIDENT AND HUMANITARIAN CO-ORDINATOR
FOR THE SUDAN

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NOTE TO MRr. EGELAND

Meeting with State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs: DARFUR

1. On 7 February I called on the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Mohammed Yousuf, for a follow-up discussion on Darfur. Following his recent mission to Tine and other areas in North Darfur, he reported that the GoS had gained control of all the Darfur region. As a result, he said, the authorities were prepared to give humanitarian access to the UN in the following locations and in the following timetable:
 - From 16 February onwards, the UN will have access to Kutum, Amboru, Kornoi and Tine from El Fasher;
 - The date for access to Kebkabiya and Al Malah will be decided on 10 February;
 - From 16 February onwards the entire region of South Darfur will be open to humanitarian access;
 - This will also be true of Mornei, Zalingi, Geneina and Kolbus in West Darfur;
 - A decision on opening the rest of West Darfur will be taken on 21 February;
 - A WFP plane will receive clearance to fly to El Fasher from 10 February and be allowed to transport the USAID delegation (led by Mr. Winter) to North Darfur on 13 February.
2. I recalled that the HAC or local governors (Walis) at times had requested the UN to deliver assistance to certain areas, only to have access later denied by Military Intelligence – a pattern which did not end after the meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26 January. Minister Yousuf acknowledged that Military Intelligence sometimes disrupted previous plans.
3. The State Minister praised the recent efforts of WFP to deliver food to the Kutum area, and was grateful to the UN for its rapid response where conditions permitted. He requested the UN to urgently provide some 150,000 blankets, as the most vulnerable in Darfur are now facing extreme cold (we will follow up). He also criticised recent statements of bombing of civilians in Tine, claiming that during his mission he did not see any damage from aerial bombing.
4. The State Minister reported that, during his mission, he had witnessed some refugees already returning from Chad. He added that the Sudanese authorities had recently met with the Ambassador of Chad to discuss modalities for the return of Sudanese refugees to Greater Darfur. It was expected that a technical team would be sent to Chad in the near future (date to be confirmed on 9 February), and that Sudan, Chad and UNHCR would develop a tri-partite agreement for the return of refugees.
5. We will be pursuing to see if the new assurances on access indicated above, materialize in practice.

Dr. Mukesh Kapila