



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

10 December 2003

NOTE TO MR. EGELAND AND MS. BERTINI

WEST DARFUR RELOCATION OF STAFF

1. Acting in my Designated Official capacity I authorized the withdrawal of UN Staff (2 temporary international visitors, 4 re-locatable national staff) from Geneina, capital of West Darfur) earlier today. This was in response to serious concerns over the worsening security situation in this area. (International NGOs had withdrawn some 24 – 48 hours previously and we were hoping to hold on there). The withdrawn UN personnel have been taken to Nyala in Southern Darfur. Left behind in Geneina are 4 local staff.
2. The Government of Sudan, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, has expressed strong concern at this decision and has noted with reluctance my line that the UN Office in Geneina remains open and that this not an “UN evacuation” but temporary relocation of certain staff (local staff will keep working there). I should advise Mr. Egeland that pressure from GoS is considerable. The Minister has reminded me politely that UN withdrawal from Juba earlier this year put my predecessor in difficulty with the Government (perhaps contributing to his eventual departure from Sudan).

Dr Mukesh Kapila
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan