



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

4 March 2004

Ref: Current delays in moving essential humanitarian support equipment to Darfur.

I have the honour to refer to our meeting of 02 March at which you invited me to write on the issue of the onward movement, from Khartoum to the Darfur Region, of the personnel and equipment supplied by the members of the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP).

By way of background, the IHP is a consortium of five member states of the United Nations, who have agreements with each other to provide rapid technical and material assistance to the UN at times of acute crisis. A more detailed background note regarding the IHP is attached.

As I explained at our meeting, the UN's ability to respond to your request to provide adequate humanitarian assistance in the Darfur Region quickly, efficiently and safely is hampered by the lack of immediately available technical and material assets. With these considerations in mind, we requested the countries of the IHP to support UN efforts by providing the necessary means to bolster our operational capability.

The IHP countries have contributed swiftly and generously to our request through the provision of technical staff and three support modules, which includes essential vehicles, office and communication equipment. The team and equipment arrived in Khartoum on 25 February. A detailed list of the equipment has, I believe, been submitted to your office. The equipment is considered standard to humanitarian operations and is in line with equipment already being used by UN agencies in Darfur and elsewhere in the Sudan. The primary user of the equipment will be OCHA, in support of, and under the guidance of my Office. You are aware that OCHA's principal focus is to assist in humanitarian coordination in collaboration with the authorities and the international humanitarian agencies of the UN system and their implementing partners. This role includes assessment of needs and the determination of priorities, contingency planning, resource mobilisation and monitoring the progress of assistance efforts, working closely with the HAC and the State authorities.

We are grateful to your office for facilitating the travel permits for the IHP support staff and for clearing some of the equipment, in particular the stationary and office furniture. However, for operational necessity, ease and cost effectiveness the equipment needs to be moved together. Therefore we and our IHP partners are concerned that we are still waiting for the clearance of the most important assets such as the vehicles and communication equipment.

The inability to move these assets to Darfur is compromising our operations and more importantly our ability to meet the minimal necessary security and safety procedures for

our staff. Therefore may I request you to help expedite the release and onward movement of all this essential equipment from Khartoum to Darfur. As you know, the humanitarian situation in Darfur is grave and delays have a direct consequence for the ability of the international community to assist you in sustaining assistance in the Darfur region.

We look forward to a positive response at your earliest convenience. Meanwhile please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr Mukesh Kapila

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan

Dr Sulaf El Din Salih
General Commissioner
Humanitarian Aid Commission
Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs
Khartoum

Cc:
HE The Minister for Humanitarian Affairs
HE The Minister for Foreign Affairs
HE The State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs