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

22 March 2004
RCHC/SUD/Note 40

NOTE TO MR. EGELAND

Sudan: Darfur Situation

1. My previous Notes and recent regular situation reports from our Darfur Crisis Unit have continued to document the evolving situation in Darfur. We have made some progress with expanding UN presence on the ground but humanitarian access improvements have been modest and often temporary. Obstructive delays from the Government continue. My recent Note no. 39 was addressed to Mr. Riza for the personal attention of the Secretary-General to reflect the gravity with which we now view the situation in Darfur.
2. I have made previous written and verbal representations to the Government of Sudan (GoS), with little or no substantive response to our major concerns. In response to intensive and mounting media interest, I finally had to brief them in Nairobi on 19 March. My remarks have been covered widely in the international press. On 21 March, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs made a highly personalized attack in national media. Also on 21 March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Acting RC/HC for clarification of my remarks. Accordingly, I wrote to the State Minister of Foreign Affairs today along the lines of the attached letter. This is self-explanatory and could be used to draw from, in any approaches made in New York by the GoS through their Permanent Representative.
3. Meanwhile, feedback from international partners, including donors, indicates strong appreciation for the stance taken here on this matter.

Dr. Mukesh Kapila