

ANNEX B

Rough transcript

Prepared by J. REDACT

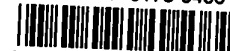
Remarks of Amb. Abdelhaleem, GoS

5 December 2007

UNSC (post-OTP report)

Remarks: "As you can have listened to the statement before the Council by Mr. Ocampo, today's ...was all fabrications. Ocampo exposed today his moral and professional bankruptcy. Indeed, moral because he resorted to lies and fabrications, this is fabrications, that you can imagine. And professional because he left aside his legal framework, so to speak, and resorted instead to politicizing the whole issue of the ICC. Indeed, we condemn fully the statement he *undertook* today, and we deplore his repeated attempts to politicize, and to derail the political process in Sudan and regionally to destroy the peace process in the Sudan. He came here, in our opinion, to make life miserable for the peace process and also to violate the roadmap on which we agreed, the three parties—the AU, the UN and the Sudan Government—on the roadmap to the solution to the Darfur problem. As you are well aware, in Addis Ababa, an international conference on Darfur...as well as the international conference also held last September here in NY. A very clear roadmap emerged with four tracks, which are the political process (AU-UN mediation), the peacekeeping track, the humanitarian (so acceleration of the 28 March 2007 humanitarian agreement) and also the fourth track, which is reconstruction and humanitarian track. So we are working together with the international community, the African Union, the United Nations, and all peace-loving countries in this world. But today he came to spoil that and unfortunately some countries, some members of the Council, also uttering his remarks like the delegation of France, for example, France which is withholding the participation of Abdel Wahid in the peace process, and also allowing in their NGOs to traffic in our children, are today also giving lessons to us, how to progress with the ICC, this is very unfortunate because they have to come with clean hands, and they don't have those clean hands. Indeed, as I said, 1 December Ocampo's very serious and we take it as violation of the roadmap, that is between the Sudan Government and the international community, and his allegations are most regrettable because he went to an extent that is unbelievable by any observer, let alone a politician or a peacemaker. So, we notice that also he during the last ten days he was in NY, lobbying, meeting delegations, meeting Permanent Representatives and delegations, lobbying against the Sudan Government, and this is not his work, this is not his task, because he has a legal mandate, and he is going beyond that legal mandate, to play politics and to spoil what we have already achieved with the international community. Indeed, we would like to caution the international community against repeated attempts by Ocampo to derail the peace process and also to make the UN part of the problem rather than the solution. As I said today, he exhibited today in no uncertain terms his moral and professional bankruptcy and it is most regrettable. In no way are we going to surrender our citizens to be tried by the ICC, we are not going to do that. If there are any accusations against our people, the Sudanese judiciary is more than capable of doing that. And he unfortunately also passed his verdict against our people even before they go to any court. He has already passed his verdict against them and this is not in the best traditions of any institution that respects itself...or that of the international community..."

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[Question on link with peacekeeping]..."...we caution against allowing him to spoil this roadmap...mixed signals he is sending to the international community and to the people on the ground in Darfur, we regret he has not been careful at all, and he is indeed ...the roadmap..."

Question: How can you not let in peacekeepers, people are dying...

"I beg to disagree with this notion of dying now because we cannot base our understanding on the situation in our own country based on the reports of the NGOs. Ocampo's mistake maybe, I think knowingly also, is that he is basing all his verdict against the Sudan government on the reports of the NGOs. He has never been there. How can you speak about the sound judicial inquiry or legal inquiry while you have not visited the place, nor did you listen to the people in question. So, he is basing his assessment of the situation in Sudan on the reports of the NGOs and this is *unprecedented* in international law.

Re. new investigation on the rebels, do you deny it is all true:

"If he wants to do any investigations, it is up to him, we are not a member of the Rome Statute, we are not party to his jurisdiction, what he wants to do he can do. Usually these reports are sent to him by NGOs, he doesn't even make any trouble to get these reports from the ground, we don't have any confidence in what Ocampo is doing. We are not going in any way to surrender our citizens."

Q on possible higher indictments, how worried are you?

"Indeed, he is threatening to make investigations and to implicate, he said, other officials, let him do whatever he would like to do. But the issue of the Council, and the mandate of the Council, as well as the priorities of the Council now, and the roadmap laid by the Council, and are something different than the allegations by the Prosecutor General."

Refusal to hand over indictments, could lead to sanctions?

"Sanctions, everybody can talk about sanctions, two days ago, members of the Security Council also were talking about sanctions, but we have repeatedly said that sanctions are not the answer,... dialogue should be the preferred course, and there is no justification whatsoever for talking about sanctions because we have delivered on our commitments, we have reached a very good situation now regarding the hybrid, regarding the humanitarian situation, regarding the peace process, all are at a very advanced stage, so to spoil that by talking about sanctions is to destroy what we have already built. Indeed, I was also reminded by this statement by the US because ...1593 exempts the US from being subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, is this universality of justice? How can justice be split? How can you exempt a member State from the Rome Statute and ask the Sudan Government to be part of it. I think this is highly politically motivated, it will not sell anywhere, it will not be respected by our people, it will be harmful to the peace process."

Q: what motivates the ICC, why are they going after the Sudan?

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"I need to speak volumes about why our country is targeted, this is not the place to say that, everybody knows and it is not something new, politicization has been there even before the Darfur issue, it found an entry point also with the eruption of the Darfur hostilities and it is dangerous for the safety of the people who are intending to help."

UN web cast, 5 December 2007,

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