

## Sudan

**Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Gives Speech on IMF, Islam**  
*EA221313 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic*  
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[Speech by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at an *Al-Siyasah* seminar; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, security is an issue on which opinions diverge [word indistinct] but they agree on its vital importance. [passage indistinct]

Many leftist centers did not review developments which occurred in these aspects and [word indistinct] many of the communist countries stood in complete opposition to the IMF from the start. However, a number of them are now IMF members. International and social movements in the big industrial countries and the international arena have caused very wide-ranging developments in many of these international organizations. Not exactly to the required level it is true, but to a large extent.

The truth is, that before we interacted with these organizations we established certain standards, and when we learned that these organizations were ready to respect these standards, we responded. I think the measures we have achieved in this respect would have been achieved in any case, whether we agreed with the IMF or not, because of the need for equilibrium in an internal and external situation which had lost its financial balance.

We have not stopped there. There is nonalignment, goodneighborliness, and careful dealings with international and voluntary organizations. It ought not to stop here, but should try to contain the conflicts in our region. We are dragged into these conflicts because of the blending of borders into each other. So, I can say, that abiding by these concepts, we are continuing to contain these conflicts, not as a [word indistinct] institution of arbitration and reconciliation, but because it is in our own interests to stop them.

With regard to territorial unity, it is the rebel movement which started in 1982 that threatens it. On this we have made moves on three axes. The first axis is a military roundup to stop any attempt to impose a foreign will on

the homeland; the second, is a political axis which emphasizes that the objective factors which led to the rebellion can be, and must be, faced politically in order to reach agreement.

Preparations have actually been made to reach a political equation on this issue. Then there is the diplomatic axis, which stresses that what we are doing recognizes objective problems and seriously strives to solve them peacefully.

There is the question of identity and what happened to it. Islam is a (?centrist) religion. However, in the September laws [Shari'ah laws] it was expressed in a non-Islamic manner. It was non-Islamic in its (?content), non-Islamic in the method of its application, and non-Islamic in its priorities. We are trying to balance Islamic expression with the rights of citizenship for all Muslims and others in an equation based on centrism and the (?book) [the Koran].

As for Arabism, racist concepts and nationalist exaggerations constitute a great danger in this area and they must be reviewed on the basis of acquisition and intermixing.

The Africanism which springs from a racial definition leads to confrontation. What we need is a coexistence of geographical and cultural definitions that accepts the unity of citizenship and the homeland, but allows for religious, racial, and cultural diversity. We call this the Sudanese charter and we are trying to implement it via the national constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

It is important to confirm civil and military unity, to extend national bridges, and to contain fanaticism, religious and racial fanaticism by means of the Sudanese charter, and social fanaticism by means of the social contract. This is important. If we fail to extend national bridges, to confirm civil-military unity, and to contain religious and racial fanaticism through the Sudanese charter and social fanaticism through the social contract, democracy will be endangered and its cornerstones will be destroyed one after the other.

[Indistinct passage omitted on recent disturbances, food, and security]

With regard to water security, Sudan is not taking advantage of its share of Nile water. This cannot happen until the Al-Rusayris Dam is completed. Concerning the plan for the infrastructure, we are giving top priority to the construction of the Al-Rusayris, Satit, and Al-Hamadab Dams. We hope they will be financed during the 4-year plan.

As far as the Nile organization is concerned, we think there must be a comprehensive agreement with the other Nile states on the Nile organization. This should reinforce previous agreements and plan the Nile's future as a source of water. For the first time we have started

looking at other water resources. We are now seeking a plan to unify supervision of all water resources. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Finally, the issue of population security. We are now in the process of laying down a national population plan which is based on, first, ascertaining the true proportion of the population. Sudan was and still [words indistinct] regarding the movement of Sudanese in our country. This must be reexamined on the basis of a new national plan which determines a balance between the rural and urban areas.

There is also the refugee problem. We in Sudan are now host to more than 2 million refugees. This number of refugees, if increased — and it is subject to increase — endangers all our national plans. That is why we have told all the authorities concerned that Sudan cannot take any more refugees. What is now required of us is to deal with the present refugees in a manner which preserves national interests. [passage omitted on largely indistinct passages on defense, commitment despite diversity in religion and race, condemnation of rebel movement, and the concluding remarks]