

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES NATION ON ARMED FORCES DAY

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[Speech to the nation by Gen Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, minister of defense and commander in chief of the people's armed forces, on Armed Forces Day and the anniversary of the assumption by a Sudanese officer of the post of commander in chief -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother revolutionary compatriots: I greet you with the greetings of your victorious and triumphant revolution while you are experiencing, along with your armed forces, an immortal day in their history and in the history of the entire homeland. August 14 is one of the days in national history when the determination of the sons of the Sudan to liberate their homeland was manifested and they achieved sovereignty and independence.

Brother revolutionary compatriots: Your armed forces, which led the way toward change and staged the revolution and which upheld the will of the masses for steadfastness, are today standing on the threshold of a capability which has been realized through resolve and determination, they have forged forward, carrying out their responsibilities, tasks and duties. The people's armed forces placed themselves at the head of the patriotic forces and chose for themselves the role of the protective shield and Sudan's sword in combat in the name of the masses. They made their position in the heart of the national alliance a position of real sacrifice in the field of national construction. With the help of their soldiers, they became a force contributing to development and change. With the effort and work of the sons of the armed forces, they pushed the wheel of construction forward.

The people's armed forces are proceeding today along the path of generous sacrifice on which they have pledged to realize the homeland's true capabilities and to exploit in the best manner possible the hidden potential of men and land.

Brothers: Your armed forces have established an economic authority that has been entrusted with the task of exploiting the energies and capabilities that are abundant within the armed forces, for the purpose of carrying out economic, agricultural and industrial projects as well as construction work and transportation. The next few months, God willing, will see the fruit of this great work.

Brother compatriots and free revolutionaries: The work of the armed forces in the field of development and construction has not been carried out at the expense of the basic efforts and tasks of the armed forces, in a homeland which is living through a revolution and that faces challenges. Those who truly chose to work on construction have performed their role with courage and sacrifice. Thus, the efforts exerted in building were coupled with constant work toward modernization, development and advancement, thanks to the efficiency of our armed forces and their combat capabilities.

These efforts included men and equipment alike. We have succeeded in giving our armed forces qualifications and taking them further toward broader horizons and greater distances. We have advanced with our training and qualifications so much that our officers and men are today capable of taking part in all forms and levels of training alongside fraternal and friendly armies. They can operate the most modern equipment, arms and apparatus. Our military academies and colleges have reached the highest levels and have attained great capabilities.

We have thus advanced the level of those cadets attending military college. We have managed to equip all ranks of our officers in the Sudan with qualifications up to the level of the military academy.

Brothers: In my capacity as supreme commander of the armed forces, the soldier enjoys my constant care. This care stems from my total faith that the individual is the pivot and basis for the formation of a strong capable army. There can be no forces without fully trained and completely qualified individuals whose conditions have been improved and whose morale have been raised.

For this reason, we are anxious to raise fighting capabilities, together with an improvement in the social conditions of all members of our armed forces, in order to complete the construction of a strong and capable army able to shoulder its duties in protecting the homeland, the revolution and the masses.

Brother revolutionary compatriots: Armed Forces Day is a day when we recall the great glories of a past generation of heroes and strugglers who gave the homeland the most precious thing they owned and offered sacrifices for its progress: freedom and dignity. It is a day when we recall the glories of those who stood fast, who fought with sacrifice and became martyrs. We also recall those who did not confine themselves to the homeland. In the days of colonial oppression, they provided help to our neighbors on the continent. Thus, our forces fought steadfastly alongside our neighbors in the face of invasion. They halted the usurper's attacks and helped the Ethiopian people [word indistinct] struggle.

Similarly, our forces helped Libya to protect its land and honor. They stood by the Arab brothers there as they were facing a colonialism directed against the Libyan people and their land. By their sacrifices, they set a high example for the Arab who rushes to help his brother to protect his dignity and honor.

Brothers: We have not forgotten all this, and the others too must not forget. Our forefathers offered themselves to the homeland, the nation and the continent. On all battlefields and positions, they were a symbol of the homeland's pride and an example for strugglers everywhere.

Free compatriots: This is a day for the homeland and for the armed forces. In your name, I congratulate all members of our armed forces and express our appreciation for the great role they all shoulder in building the homeland, protecting it, safeguarding its unity and protecting its revolution. In the name of your armed forces, we express our thanks and gratitude, for from you we have derived our strength and capability and from you we have derived determination and scored one victory after another. You are the basis of the armed forces' strength and you are constantly the object of their sacrifice and giving. Your armed forces will preserve their loyalty and pledge. They will continue to have faith in God and the homeland, raising the slogan of "Victory always," with determination to protect the people and their socialist gains, the country and its territory and the security of its people.

Glory to you, our brothers! Glory and might to your valiant armed forces forever! God's peace and mercy and blessings be with you.