



# Sudan

*Biggest demonstration since Numeiri's fall puts the ruling Military Council on the spot.*

Sudanese mass organizations and trade unions are showing growing irritation with the contradictory policies of General Abdul-Rahman Swaredahab. On July 4th, more than 40,000 Sudanese amassed in Khartoum for the largest demonstration since the overthrow of Numeiri in April. The same coalition of trade unions, students and progressive political parties were this time demonstrating against General Swaredahab and the ruling military council, for refusing to demand the extradition of Numeiri from Egypt. The demonstrators marched to the Egyptian embassy, successfully impressing on the ruling military council that the Sudanese people are still awaiting concrete results from the overthrow of Numeiri.

Within days of the mass demonstration, the military council issued a formal request to Egypt for Numeiri's extradition to stand trial for the crimes of his regime. The Mubarak government has balked at any suggestion that Numeiri be handed over to Sudanese officials. Instead, he is being protected in an expensive villa in Alexandria.

General Swaredahab has taken great pains to preserve Sudan's long standing special role in the Egyptian-American axis. The request for Numeiri's extradition was a *pro forma* gesture designed more to appease growing internal opposition than to actually make pressure for Numeiri's return. When Egypt replied that extradition was prohibited by the Egyptian constitution,

General Swaredahab told *The New York Times* on July 15th, «I respect their laws.» He also assured American reporters that Numeiri would not be tried in absentia.

Mubarak has already paid a friendly visit to Khartoum on June 17th, to insure that there will be no erratic moves away from Numeiri's regional policy. Mubarak met Swaredahab again the second week of July in Addis Ababa at the Organization of African Unity summit conference. At the end of July, Swaredahab announced that he would visit Cairo in the near future. After the 1978 Camp David accords, Numeiri signed an agreement with the United States, pledging to abide by the Camp David accords. His was the only Arab regime besides Egypt to make such a formal undertaking to the US. In 1982, Numeiri signed an agreement with Mubarak on joint economic development and eventual integration of the two countries. These two agreements have not been abrogated, nor has General Swaredahab made any indication that he is contemplating doing so any time in the future.

## **Swaredahab attempts to strike a «balance»**

To offset Sudan's continuing close ties with Egypt, Swaredahab has attempted to give his regime a national face by signing military protocols with Libya. Libya has agreed to supply Sudan with some military equipment and train

several hundred military personnel. But Swaredahab has also taken pains to reassure the Reagan Administration of his continuing loyalty. In *The New York Times* interview he stated, «I am not at all worried that our relations with Libya might affect our relations with America. There is nothing that our friends in the West should be worried about. This is not a military pact or treaty.» Clearly, Swaredahab is worried that the Reagan Administration will limit or cut the 400 million dollars that was supplied to famine-stricken Sudan in the past year.

Swaredahab has declared a one year period of military rule before elections for a civilian government. This is unacceptable to the coalition of unions and professional organizations that mounted the anti-Numeiri demonstrations in April. Swaredahab has also failed to convince the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in the south of the country that he is charting a course different from Numeiri. Talk of bringing members of the SPLA into the new cabinet led nowhere and SPLA leader Doctor John Garang has stated that the Sudanese army attacks against the South have never stopped. (See *Democratic Palestine* No. 9 - June 1985)

## **SPLA escalates struggle**

The SPLA has escalated its struggle with some of the largest military operations in the two year war. The SPLA launched a major operation near