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LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith, a letter addressed to Your Excellency from H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of State at the Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan, dated 11 November 1996, regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution 1070 (1996).

I would be grateful if this letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih M. ERWA
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 11 November 1996 from the Minister of State at the
Ministry of External Relations of the Sudan addressed to the
Secretary-General

Now that the deadline specified by the Security Council for the Sudan to comply with Security Council resolution 1070 (1996) is approaching, I wish to draw your attention to the following facts:

1. After a painstaking search and inquiry, the Government of the Sudan is totally convinced that none of the three persons accused of the attempted assassination of President Hosni Mubarak is present in the territory of the Sudan. We stated as much during our meetings with your Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi.
2. The Government of the Sudan reiterates its total condemnation of the incident and of all forms of terrorism and finds no justification of any kind, whether moral or political, for terrorist operations anywhere in the world.
3. The Government of the Sudan has in the past made intensive efforts, and continues to do so, to improve its relations with neighbouring States, as we informed your Special Envoy on the occasion of his latest visit to the Sudan and we shall endeavour to continue those efforts until normalization of our relations with our neighbours is finally achieved, an endeavour in which we hope for the support of others.
4. The Sudan affirms its readiness to cooperate fully with the international community in pursuing the three accused outside the Sudan.
5. I wish to draw your attention to an important matter, namely the adverse humanitarian consequences that we and a number of non-governmental voluntary agencies have determined will result from the prohibition of flights by Sudanese aircraft outside the borders of the Sudan. In short, those effects are due to the fact that:

(a) Sudan Airways is the only carrier of perishable vaccines used to immunize millions of Sudanese children against rickets, tuberculosis and contagious diseases. You are well aware that stopping the operations of this carrier will result in the death of perhaps millions of children or in inflicting on them permanent ailments such as rickets or intractable diseases such as pulmonary tuberculosis and diphtheria, in addition to endemic diseases such as malaria, typhoid, onchocerciasis and sleeping sickness.

(b) Sudan Airways carries thousands of elderly patients suffering from intractable diseases such as cancer, liver failure, heart disease and arterial diseases on a weekly basis to London, Cairo, Amman and Jedda on travel tickets that are discounted by 50 per cent and are paid for in local currency. Many of the world's mass communications media noted that all the passengers on board the

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Sudanese aircraft that was hijacked last September to London were sick people travelling to Jordan for treatment. Stopping the operation of this carrier would lead to the deaths of thousands of patients and would deprive thousands of others of the right to treatment.

(c) Sudan Airways carries the effects of expatriate Sudanese citizens in the Gulf States, who number over a million, and who, in their turn, support families numbering as many as 5 million people. The consignments sent at reduced prices and on favourable payment terms contain medicines and foodstuffs. Once again, you will be well aware of the serious damage that will be caused to that number of citizens as a result of an embargo on Sudanese aviation.

(d) Sudan Airways offers its services to numerous refugees who live in the Sudan and its services are also used by local and worldwide humanitarian organizations who provide assistance to those refugees.

(e) Sudan Airways links remote parts of the Sudan and an external embargo on it would entail a decrease in its services and a decrease in the standard of safety equipment in airports which would contribute to the break-up of Sudan's unity, integrity and stability.

Mr. Secretary-General:

In the name of millions of sick children and elderly people, we appeal to you to face the members of the Security Council with their responsibilities and to draw their attention to the real mistakes and imminent humanitarian disasters that will result from any decision to ban Sudan Airways from flying outside the Sudan. It is a matter first and foremost of the lives and well-being of millions of innocent people who depend on this carrier to avert the dangers of deadly and lethal diseases in a country that is classified as among the least developed countries whose limited possibilities and scarce resources, as mentioned, are well known to you.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Dr. Mustapha Osman ISMAIL
Minister of State at the
Ministry of External Relations,
Khartoum, the Sudan
