



## Consejo de Seguridad

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CARTA DE FECHA 24 DE AGOSTO DE 1998 DIRIGIDA AL PRESIDENTE  
DEL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD POR EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE  
DEL SUDÁN ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Como complemento a mi carta de fecha 23 de agosto de 1998 (S/1998/793), adjunto como anexo a la presente un artículo publicado en el diario londinense The Observer el 23 de agosto de 1998 donde se dice que el Presidente norteamericano sabía que iba a bombardear un objetivo civil incapaz de producir gas neurotóxico y que, no obstante, ordenó el bombardeo de la fábrica (véase el anexo).

Le agradecería que tuviera a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y su anexo como documento del Consejo de Seguridad.

(Firmado) Elfatih ERWA  
Representante Permanente



ANNEX

23 August 1998 The Observer

# Clinton bombed civilians on purpose

## American tests showed no trace of nerve gas at 'deadly' Sudan plant. The President ordered the attack anyway

by Ed Whalley in Washington  
Henry McDowall in Beirut  
Suzan Minchin and March Bright

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton knew he was bombing a civilian target when he ordered the United States attack on a Sudan chemical plant, it was ordered by him, showed that the VX nerve gas was on the site and two British professionals who recently worked at the factory said it clearly, had no military purpose.

The disclosure will deepen the cracks following the American attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan, in relations be-

tween the US and its Muslim allies, which have called on Clinton to produce hard evidence that the attacks had a legitimate relevance to the war against international terrorism.

The US claims that the al-Shifa pharmaceuticals industrial plant in north Khartoum was producing the ingredients for the deadly VX nerve gas. But Sudan's assertion that it produced 50 per cent of the country's drug requirements is much closer to the truth. On 10 March this year, Britain's junior Foreign Minister Tony Lloyd told Parliament that the Government could not 'val-

idate' American claims that Sudan was developing chemical weapons and is not aware of any truth or substantiated evidence on the matter.

US forces flew a reconnaissance mission to test for traces of gas and reported that there were none, Clinton immediately authorised the attack. He was also told the absence of gas would avoid the hurried, last spectacle of civilian casualties. Sudan television said yesterday that one of 10 people injured in the attack had died.

Beifast, film-maker Irwin Aronovitch, who filmed the plant while making a promotional video, said: 'The Amer-

cans have got this completely wrong. In other parts of the country I encountered heavy security, but not here. I was allowed to wander about quite freely. This is a perfectly normal chemical factory with the things you would expect - stainless steel vats and technicians.'

Tom Carmichael, of Hexham, Northumberland, who worked as a technical manager from 1972 to 1986 for the plant's owners, the Babouk family, said: 'I have intimate knowledge of that factory and it just does not lend itself to the manufacture of chemical weapons.

'The Americans claimed that the weapons were being manufactured in the veterinary part of the factory. Unless there have been some radical changes in the last few months, it just isn't equipped to cope with the demands of chemical weapon manufacturing. You need things like airlocks, but this factory just has doors leading out on to the street.'

The factory was being sold to a Saudi Arabian. They are allies of the Americans. I don't think it would look very good if the factory was also manufacturing weapons for Baghdad.'

medicines, he said. 'I almost died while working out there. The loss of this factory is a tragedy for the rural communities.'

The engineer, who has said he will be returning to Sudan soon to carry out more work for the Babouk family, condemned the American attack and its resulting loss of life.

'It's a funny feeling to think that I had a cup of tea in that place and the guard on the gate, who used to say hello to me is very probably now dead. The Babouks are absolutely gutted about this.'

Crowds in Khartoum yesterday vented their anger against

Britain for supporting Clinton by stoning the British embassy and tearing up the flag.

From Afghanistan, an assurance that British targets will not be included in any retaliatory strikes has come from sources close to Osama bin Laden, the multimillionaire Saudi fundamentalist believed to be behind the bombings of US embassies in Africa.

Bin Laden, who survived the American air strikes on his training camp in Afghanistan, telephoned the editor of the London-based Arabic daily newspaper *al-Quds al-Arabi* to say he was only interested in hitting the US and Israel.