



Conseil de sécurité

Distr.
GÉNÉRALE

S/1998/801
25 août 1998
FRANÇAIS
ORIGINAL : ANGLAIS

LETTRE DATÉE DU 24 AOÛT 1998, ADRESSÉE AU PRÉSIDENT DU
CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ PAR LE REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU
SOUDAN AUPRÈS DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Comme suite à ma lettre datée du 23 août 1998 (S/1998/793), j'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint un article publié dans The Observer de Londres, en date du 23 août 1998, dans lequel ce journal indique que le Président américain savait qu'il bombardait une cible civile qui n'est pas capable de produire de gaz neurotoxiques, mais que cela ne l'a pas empêché d'ordonner que l'usine soit bombardée (voir annexe).

Je vous serais obligé de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe comme document du Conseil de sécurité.

Le Représentant permanent

(Signé) Elfatih ERWA



Clinton bombed civilians on purpose

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

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.

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 engineer, who has said he will be returning to Sudan soon to carry out more work for the Baaboud 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 Baabouds are absolutely gutted about this.'

Crowds in Khartoum yesterday vented their anger against Sudan desperately needed facturing weapons for Baghdad.

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caus 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 technicals.

Tom Carramfin, of Hexham, Northumberland, who worked as a technical manager from 1992 to 1996 for the plant's owners, the Baaboud 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

data' American claims that Sudan was developing chemical weapons and is not aware of any fresh 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 horrifying spectacle of civilian casualties. Sudan television said yesterday that one of its people injured in the attack has died.

Belfast film-maker Irvin Armstrong, who filmed the plant while making a promotional video, said: 'The Amer-

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 vali-

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of Ed Williams Washington
Harry McShane Belfast
Suzan Shrita and Martin Wright

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton knew he was bombing a civilian target when he ordered the United States attack on a Sudan chemical plant. Tests ordered by him showed that no 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 crisis, following the American attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan, in relations be-