

Europe urged to give more aid to war-torn Sudan

SOUTH BOR, Sudan (AP) - Europe must immediately increase aid for reconstruction efforts in civil war-ravaged southern Sudan, officials from the United States,

United Nations and Sudan said Sunday.

The calls came as the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Andrew S. Natsios, toured southern Sudan, where a 21-year conflict between government forces and rebels has left 2.5 million people dead, mainly through disease and starvation.

Kezekia Ruei, commissioner of the rebel-controlled Upper Nile area of South Bor,

said European states must start taking an interest in the south's problems.

The southern war has damaged vital infrastructure in towns and cities throughout the region, which is rich in oil and inhabited by Muslims, Christians and Sudanese of animist beliefs. Poor drinking water and a lack of government funding in the region also are major concerns.

"The Europeans must come and see the situation to

know by themselves," Ruei told The Associated Press. "This is the time for reconstruction. They (Europeans) cannot just wait and watch the Americans help us."

U.S. officials say Washington and Norway are among the few to send aid to southern Sudan. The United States has contributed \$210 million and Norway about \$30 million this year.

Natsios said he will write to European counterparts urg-

ing them to help fund southern reconstruction.

"It will undermine the peace process if reconstruction does not start now," Natsios said. Peace talks to end the war, which is separate from the 19-month conflict in the western Darfur region, started in July 2002 between the government and the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has

said a final agreement, plus financial aid, in the south has been delayed by the conflict in Darfur, where state-backed Arab militia are blamed for killing an estimated 30,000 African villagers and driving more than 1 million from their homes.

U.N. World Food Program logistics officer Barbara Van Logchen said the European donors who promised to donate funds have redirected their efforts to Darfur.

Bush lifts sanctions on Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush eased minor sanctions on Libya Friday, but stopped short of ending those the Libyan government has insisted upon before it pays out \$1.6 billion more in compensation to Pan Am Flight 103 victims. Bush's move was the latest reward to the country for agreeing last year to dismantle chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

"I have received reliable assurances that Libya will not acquire or develop nuclear weapons or assist other nations in doing so," Bush wrote in a memo to Secretary of State Colin Powell. "I hereby determine and certify that the application of sanctions, as required by (the Arms Export Control Act), would have a serious adverse effect on vital United States interests."

Bush said it is in U.S.'s interest for the Export-Import Bank to "guarantee, insure, or extend credit, or participate in the extension of credit in support of United States exports to Libya."

Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, a group representing most families of the 270 victims in the 1988 bombing over Scotland, wrote to Bush on Aug. 20 urging him to lift two presidential orders freezing Libyan assets and restricting air travel there, and to remove Libya from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Libya negotiated those actions as conditions before it will agree to pay \$6 million more to the families of the victims in the explosion, which killed 259 people on the plane and 11 others on the ground, including 189 Americans. Bush did not take those steps Friday, although the deadline for settlement is Sept. 22. Sean McCormack, White House spokesman, said it was a possibility he will, if Libya meets certain conditions. He didn't say what they were. "We've said that continued good-faith actions on the part of Libya will be met in turn by good-faith actions by the United States and the international community," McCormack said.



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