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INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: 2 x EXTERNAL - NOTICE OF PIERRE SANÉ'S SPEECH + CSCE

NOTE: Pierre Sané will be speaking on Tuesday 6 December at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, commonly referred to as "Chatham House". The speech is to mark Human Rights Day and focuses on Africa. We are sending this event advisory to some international media based in London, but section press officers can send the advisory to their national media's correspondents based in London so they can attend.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Afghanistan - 15 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 267

Change of plan: News item about the UN ignoring recommendations by Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan last week and giving new info on appalling human rights situation in Afghanistan. There will not be a document to go with this - instead will be a sheet with some detailed cases. These materials will come in the news service by 12 December at the latest.

Bosnia - (21 December) - possible change - SEE NEWS SERVICE 268

Sudan - 25 January - SUDAN CAMPAIGN VIDEO INFORMATION (please inform AV officers and campaign coordinators):

SUDAN: A NATION SCARRED - Soldiers led by Omer Hassan Ahmad al Bashir seized power in Sudan in June 1989. Sweeping away a democratically elected government, the new rulers promised a revolution of "national salvation". What they delivered is a human rights disaster. From the streets of the capital Khartoum to remote rural villages, the human rights of Sudanese people are being abused.

The Sudan campaign video has now been completed and is available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and international versions. An order form with full details and transcript will be sent out next week, but to speed up the ordering process, we are suggesting that your section sends their order to the Audiovisual Resources team at the IS by fax or e-mail in the next two weeks stating which language and video format you require. SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Turkey - 8 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Northern Iraq - 28 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 266

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

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NEWS EVENT ADVISORY - CHATHAM HOUSE LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

To mark International Human Rights Day on 10 December, Mr Pierre Sané, Secretary-General of Amnesty International, will give the prestigious Chatham House lecture on Tuesday 6 December at 5:30pm. The theme of the event will be **"The Human Rights Dimension in Sub-Saharan Africa."**

This lecture at the Royal Institute of International Affairs is open to journalists and can be freely quoted. Copies of the speech, embargoed until delivery, are available from the Amnesty International Press Office.

Chatham House audiences include leading figures of the international business and diplomatic communities, noted academicians, and government and political leaders. Recent lectures have been given by the presidents of Romania and Slovenia, the Secretary General of the Arab League, and the Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Highlights from Mr Pierre Sané's lecture include:

- "...there seem to be dangerous views being propagated in Washington or Moscow or London, that nothing can be done, that it's not the job of the international community to solve Africa's problems."
- "Are there now too many human rights groups [in Africa] or do they exist in too many countries to merit assistance? Sometimes the response of donors seems to reflect the narrow thinking of an administrator rather than an investor with a sense of strategy."
- "...Africans today want to be citizens of the world with the same rights as others."
- "Opposed to this process of truth and justice is the entire system of diplomacy and politics, which stands for 'letting bygones be bygones', and has the effect of regarding human rights violations as a legitimate by-product of conflict."

The Royal Institute of International Affairs is located at Chatham House, 10 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE. Telephone: 071 957 5700.

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5 NOVEMBER 1994 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CSCE SUMMIT LONG ON RHETORIC, SHORT ON PRACTICAL MEASURES TO UNITE HUMAN RIGHTS & SECURITY

The final document of the two-month Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Budapest to be signed today is long on rhetoric and short on practical measures to ensure human rights protection in the search for peace and security according to Amnesty International.

"The CSCE sees itself as the main body preventing conflicts erupting into war and resolving crises in Europe, yet as far as human rights is concerned, it is sad how little has come out of two months intensive work," Amnesty International said.

"Repeated CSCE declarations of high ideals that human rights and security are two sides of the same coin look hollow in the face of continuing extra-judicial executions, torture and 'disappearances' in the CSCE region."

At the end of a two-month Review Conference in the Hungarian capital which reviewed CSCE work on human rights, security, military and economic issues, the 52 states have still not decided whether a CSCE or Russian peace-keeping force will be sent into the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and how to deal with the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Amnesty International has identified two key human rights challenges for the CSCE:

1. Is human rights protection really integral to the CSCE's role as peace-maker, peace-keeper and peace-builder?

"Regardless of whether a Russian or multinational force goes into Karabakh - or anywhere else - the CSCE must make sure that all forces strictly abide by international human rights and humanitarian law," Amnesty International said.

"No matter who brokers an ultimate peace deal in Karabakh, the CSCE should ensure any settlement contains strong human rights guarantees and machinery to implement them, which should include effective supervision by the international community."

On the day of the summit the diplomats are still deadlocked on the conditions under which the CSCE will approve so-called "third parties", such as Russia, sending in their own peace-keeping troops to police ceasefires.

"It seems that with every new draft references to human rights guarantees and the CSCE monitoring role have been watered down in the hope of reaching agreement," Amnesty International said.

Another important tool of CSCE conflict prevention is the CSCE diplomatic missions based long term in places such as Tadjikistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova and Georgia. The conference gave its main human rights office in Warsaw a greater role in shaping the human rights mandate of such missions, but failed to affirm that measures for human rights promotion and protection will consistently be built into the work of these missions.

The concluding document promises that "respect for human rights...is an essential component of security and co-operation in the CSCE region". If so, human rights protection should be an essential part of the diplomatic work of the CSCE's missions on the ground. At the very least, mission members cannot remain silent witnesses to human rights violations and their reports should include assessment of the human rights situation.

2. Can the CSCE also confront continuing gross and systematic human rights violations in Europe outside of armed conflict?

The end of a war does not necessarily mean the end of human rights violations and wars are often the result of years in which human rights grievances are ignored. CSCE human rights commitments are being flouted in places such as Turkey, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia & Montenegro) and Uzbekistan and according to Amnesty International the CSCE has the flexibility, power and duty to act.

During the conference the European Union with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden urged Turkey and Uzbekistan to consider inviting an expert mission to investigate human rights, under the so-called Moscow mechanism.

Now it is time for CSCE states to make sure their welcome concern leads to clear action. If states do not voluntarily invite a mission, other CSCE states cannot shy away from using the power they have to require countries to receive such a mission. Otherwise, the CSCE will lose all credibility it may have with an already sceptical public.

The concluding document to be signed at the summit today promises that respect for human rights "must remain a primary goal of CSCE action". States did slightly strengthen the role of the Warsaw office in the human rights process and the place of human rights in political discussions.

"Unfortunately however, many of the concrete proposals which would have made the CSCE better able to monitor whether its members are respecting human rights were defeated," Amnesty International said. "It was usually a handful of states, sometimes only two or three out of 52, which shamelessly exploited the consensus rule and vetoed proposals, to protect their own perceived political interests."

The Budapest Review Conference has made many promises that states will respect human rights. CSCE states must now show they are willing to add the political will and resources needed to turn these worthy ideals into an effective system to protect people in Europe from human rights violations./END