

**Response by USG Francis Deng, Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, to Mr. Lee's question at the Spokesperson's briefing of 17 November 2010**

In view of recent assertions by Mr. Matthew Lee of the Inner city Press that I have been writing books on UN time and using the staff of my Office to assist me, I would like to explain that all the books that have come out since I joined the United Nations were written when I was, for several successive years, a Fellow at USIP, the Library of Congress and MIT, and were in the pipeline for publication. I paid non-UN personnel to assist with the final edits of the manuscripts or the page/proofs.

The last book, *Sudan at the Brink: Self Determination and National Unity*, published in August 2010, brought together pieces that were written before I joined the UN, a key note address I gave last year at the UNMIS symposium in Khartoum and an update which is a revised version of a note I prepared for the Secretary-General, at his request, when I returned from the UNMIS symposium. The only pieces that were new were the introduction, an overview section and the conclusion. I was encouraged to produce the book in time for the UN General Assembly High Level Debate on the Sudan on 24 September 2010, convened by the Secretary-General. There was therefore a sense of urgency, for which I requested the support of my administrative assistant to help prepare the new sections.

While the book was published in my personal capacity, it was obviously cleared with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, that is, with the Chef de Cabinet. It is a direct contribution to the debate on the critical issues facing the Sudan and the international community with the forthcoming referenda in the South and Abyei. Besides, I have been invited by former President Thabo Mbeki to be a "friend" of his High Level Panel on the Sudan, with the approval of the Secretary-General. I therefore feel that I have an obligation to contribute constructively to that debate. All royalties from the book will go to the Fordham Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation (CIHC).

Whenever I have given copies of my books to colleagues at the United Nations, I made it clear that they were written before I joined the UN, precisely to avoid the kind of misperceptions that Mr. Lee is demonstrating.

I met with the Director of the Ethics Office on 23 November to seek her advice on these matters. She assured me that she found no basis for concern.

Francis Deng  
30 November 2010