

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

MAY 2007

AFRICA ENDEAVOR 2007

MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS are currently meeting in the Ghanaian capital of Accra for a conference. The conference, 'Africa Endeavor 2007', was organized by the Ghanaian army and the United States European Command. The aim of Africa Endeavor is to establish a communications network on the African continent.

This new communications network is part of a larger strategy to support the African Union's standby forces in their response to crises. The communications system will allow different countries in Africa to share information more effectively among themselves and with coalition partners.

One important mission of African Endeavor is the fight against terrorism. Different security institutions throughout Africa will now share information to thwart terrorist attacks.

In an additional development, the United States is creating a new African command. The command will coordinate US military activities in Africa.

UN MISSION IN DARFUR

NIGERIA, EGYPT, BANGLADESH, SWEDEN AND NORWAY have agreed to send peacekeeping troops to Darfur. A date has not been set yet for this UN support mission.

These United Nations peacekeepers will deploy troops, police and medical units to support the African Union ground forces. The African Union peacekeeping mission cannot keep peace in the region without additional support.

The only international aid agency working in the rural areas of Darfur is the Red Cross. They are trying to protect civilians in remote villages, where the security situation is worsening. It is increasingly difficult to provide these areas with protection.

Furthermore, if the security situation improves, fewer people will migrate to the UN-operated camps, where about two million internally displaced people are living. Services to the displaced people are very organized, but the camps are overcrowded.

In a related development, many humanitarian agencies plan to withdraw their aid workers from western Darfur, following a series of attacks on humanitarian compounds.

UN SENDS SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA

THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY has sent medical supplies to the Somali town of Doble, not far from the Kenyan border. Many people are migrating to the town to escape the violence in Mogadishu.

Warring factions have controlled the country since 1991. Most of these refugees moved to escape the fighting between the transitional government forces and the insurgents. Reports confirm that a large number of these refugees are ill and require medical and relief supplies.

NGOs report that they have run out of relief supplies. The rainy season has made the distribution of supplies even more urgent.

In a recent development, Kenya has closed its borders because of the huge influx of refugees. Refugees are migrating to less crowded areas, hoping to receive more assistance in these less crowded areas.

SOUTH KOREA AIDS NORTH

SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIALS have agreed to send humanitarian aid to impoverished areas of North Korea. Seoul will ship massive quantities of rice (some 400,000 tons) by the end of the month.

South Korea and North Korea are currently negotiating nuclear disarmament issues. According to a six-nation deal, North Korea must close its main nuclear reactors and readmit United Nations inspectors into the country.

South Korea says this humanitarian effort is not directly related to the ongoing negotiations. They do not want to force North Korea to comply with the six-nation deal.

By offering this humanitarian aid, Seoul hopes to improve relations with North Korea and foster peace and stability in the region.

Dovi, Efam, 'Military Experts Gather in Africa to Develop Communications Network', *Voice of America News*, 18 April 2007

Heinlen, Peter, 'Recruiting Begins For UN Darfur Mission', *Voice of America News*, 20 April 2007

Majtenyi, Cathy, 'UN Refugee Agency Sends Aid to Somali Town', *Voice of America News*, 19 April 2007.

Schlein, Lisa, 'ICRC to Keep Villagers in Darfur From Fleeing to Camps', *Voice of America News*, 21 April 2007

Woodsome, Kate, 'South Korea Agrees to Resume Aid to North', *Voice of America News*, 22 April 2007

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Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 thwart | a) an enclosed area where people live |
| 2 migrate | b) far away from civilization |
| 3 remote | c) to use all of something and not have any left |
| 4 insurgents | d) to move from one country to another |
| 5 run out | e) to help develop, to encourage |
| 6 compound | f) a large number of people or things coming to a place |
| 7 influx | g) containing too many people or things |
| 8 overcrowded | h) to obey a rule or law, or do what somebody says |
| 9 comply | i) rebels, people who revolt against civil authorities |
| 10 foster | j) to prevent something from happening |

Task 2: comprehension check

Complete the following sentences in a few words.

- 1 The mission of African Endeavor is to _____.
- 2 UN peacekeepers are being deployed to Darfur to _____.
- 3 The Red Cross in Darfur is trying to _____.
- 4 Due to the dangerous situation, many NGOs in Darfur are _____.
- 5 People are leaving Mogadishu because _____.
- 6 To foster peace and security, South Korea is sending _____.

Task 3: discussion

This month's Campaign News Digest focuses on emergency situations in Africa. You are going to prepare a briefing about an African country. Choose a country from the CIA World Factbook website: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>. Your teacher will ask you to take notes under specific headings. Then use your notes to brief the class.

Task 4: writing

You are going to write about the history of an African country using a *timeline*, or list of important events in the order that they happened.

Write an essay of about 300 words using the events that are most interesting to you.

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Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right.

Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 thwart | j) to prevent something from happening |
| 2 migrate | d) to move from one country to another |
| 3 remote | b) far away from civilization |
| 4 insurgents | i) rebels, people who revolt against civil authorities |
| 5 run out | c) to use all of something and not have any left |
| 6 compound | a) an enclosed area where people live |
| 7 influx | g) containing too many people or things |
| 8 overcrowded | h) to obey a rule or law, or do what somebody says |
| 9 comply | e) to help develop, to encourage |
| 10 foster | f) a large number of people or things coming to a place |

Task 2: comprehension check

Suggested answers:

- 1 The mission of African Endeavor is to establish a communication network / a security cooperation / a communications system / fight against terrorism.
- 2 UN peacekeepers are being deployed to Darfur to support the African Union / bring peace to the region.
- 3 The Red Cross in Darfur is trying to protect civilians in remote villages / prevent migration to the UN-operated camps / provide services to displaced persons.
- 4 Due to the dangerous situation, many NGOs in Darfur are withdrawing their aid workers / leaving.
- 5 People are leaving Mogadishu because they want to escape the fighting / of the violence.
- 6 To foster peace and security, South Korea is sending humanitarian aid to North Korea / rice to North Korea.

Task 3: discussion

The aim of this activity is to describe a country using common geopolitical lexis. It is also an exercise in information transfer: the students must expand skeletal information into complete ideas.

Direct your students to this website: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>. Ask them to choose one of the countries discussed in the readings by clicking 'Select a Country or Location' at the top. Ask them to use the information from specific headings* to prepare a briefing for the rest of the class. There is a lot of information in the profile, so students should transfer the information they need to their notebooks from the headings you assign.

These are some suggested headings (underlined) you may want to ask your students to research.

Geography: subheadings: Location, Climate, Terrain, Natural Resources

People: subheadings: Population, Nationality, Ethnic Groups, Religions, Languages, Literacy

Government: subheadings: Name, Type, Capital

Economy: subheadings: Agricultural Products, Industries

This is a speaking exercise, so it is not necessary for the students to rewrite the information in sentence form. Encourage your students to note down key information only and to use their notes to brief the class. Go around the class, providing input where necessary. Ask your students to rehearse their briefings before presenting them.

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Task 4: writing

The aim of this exercise is to write an historical account using a timeline of key events. You may want to revise the past simple and present perfect before asking your students to do their research. Direct your students to the following BBC websites and ask them each to choose a different country to research:

Sudan: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/827425.stm

North Korea: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1132268.stm

South Korea: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1132724.stm

Somalia: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1072611.stm

Ghana: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1023444.stm

Again, there is a lot of information, so ask your students to write about the most interesting or important events. You may need to help them distinguish important information from less important information.

You may have some overlap if you have more than five students. You might want to assign different countries in Africa that were not mentioned in the readings, to make the briefings more interesting for the rest of the class.