

## SUDAN GETS A CHANCE

**T**HE HANDSHAKE WAS MET with cheers and ululations, a woman sang a song of peace in the Dinka language, and somebody shouted “*Allahu Akbar*” (“God is great”). The negotiators—representatives of Sudan’s Islamic government and rebels from the animist or Christian south—had reason to smile: after 20 years of war, this is the closest they have ever



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN—POL

Rebel soldiers head for peace

come to peace. At a peace conference in Naivasha, Kenya, they agreed to split the country’s oil wealth equally for the next six years, when the south will hold a referendum on independence.

For once, oil may have been a factor in ending—rather than prolonging—a conflict. The government’s control of the southern wells had put the rebels, who’ve been fighting for self-determination, in a tough spot. Each of the 250,000 barrels produced per day—earning annual revenues of around \$2 billion—meant more money for the north to arm its soldiers. “People would rather share the oil than destroy themselves,” says rebel leader John Garang. “It is better to get a half-empty cup than an empty one.”

But a final agreement won’t bring peace for all Sudanese. Even as negotiators celebrated, fighting ripped through western Sudan, where battles between the government and another rebel group have killed 3,000 people. —By **Stephan Faris**

## GIVE PEACE A MONTH

January saw peace threatening to break out in a number of global hot spots, as if world leaders had made a collective New Year’s resolution for harmony. India and Pakistan—who not so long ago were at the nuclear brink over Kashmir—met for warm talks in Islamabad and promised to keep talking. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf declared the commitment to talk a victory “for all those peace-loving people of the world.” Syria and Turkey also seem to have gotten over long-standing territorial feuds: last week, Bashar Assad became the first Syrian leader ever to visit Turkey, and leaders appear more concerned about future business than about the disputed Hatay Province. Sudanese rebels have agreed to an oil wealth-sharing package after decades of civil war (see story), North Korea has opened up its nuclear facilities to an outside delegation, and Libya wants to be everybody’s friend. Will the peace last? Sure—about as long as most New Year’s resolutions do. —By **Jim Ledbetter**



Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee meets Musharraf, left, while Assad and Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul stand together

cy in a series of terror attacks including the 2002 bombing of a hotel near Mombasa and the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, for which the al-Qaeda network claimed responsibility.

## Positively Liberal

**SINGAPORE** The government announced it was considering decriminalizing oral sex. The move is one of a series, including the lifting

of a ban on the TV show *Sex and the City*, designed to play down the country’s reputation as a nanny state.

## Targeting Aristide

**HAITI** Three people died and more than 20 were injured in violent clashes between opponents and supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Opposition leaders, who accuse Aristide of corruption, called a two-day general strike, which shut down many businesses in Port-au-Prince.

## MEANWHILE IN THE U.K. ...

### Ye Gannae Dae That

To many, the Scottish lilt is charming and even rather attractive (think Sean Connery). But not, it seems, to the British Foreign Office, which was forced to apologize for denying a Russian student a visa to study English in Scotland on the grounds that she would have difficulty understanding the accent. What could they mean? When Scottish groundskeeper Willie from *The Simpsons* (right) coined the expression “cheese-eating surrender monkeys,” the whole world knew what he meant.



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## WORLD WATCH

By PENNY CAMPBELL

### Slow Justice

**BELGIUM** A jury at a Liège court found six men guilty of complicity in the 1991 shooting murder of socialist Deputy Prime Minister André Cools. The court handed the men prison terms of between five and 20 years. Prosecutors said the murder was masterminded by former Minister Alain Van der Biest, who committed suicide in 2002.



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS—AP

Papandreou waves to supporters

### Election Gamble

**GREECE** Socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis announced his plans to stand down as leader of the ruling PASOK party in favor of popular Foreign Minister George Papandreou, to boost the party’s fortunes ahead of early elections in March. Papandreou has an

uphill task; the conservative New Democracy Party is well ahead in opinion polls.

### Case Closed

**CZECH REPUBLIC** Fifty-six years after his fatal fall from a window, police concluded that Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk’s death in 1948 was murder, not suicide as was ruled initially.

### WMD Found?

**IRAQ** Danish troops operating in the south announced they had discovered dozens of buried mortar rounds that initial tests showed could contain blister gas. Results of final tests on the shells, which had been buried for at least 10 years, should be available this week.

### Terror on Trial

**KENYA** Three men pleaded not guilty at the opening of their trial in Nairobi to charges of conspira-

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