



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 15 March 2004

International Bureau Circular

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Sudan – Illegal issues of postage stamps

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **SUDAN** asks me to inform you of the following:

"The postal administration of Sudan has recently learned that a large number of sheets of illegally issued postage stamps bearing the name of Sudan have been circulated by unknown agents. We strongly condemn these practices, since such illegal issues do harm not only to our own reputation and image, but also to philately and the Universal Postal Union as a whole.

"The very existence of such issues constitutes a violation of the national laws of the Republic of Sudan, and its postal legislation in particular. The latter states that only the postal administration of Sudan is authorized to issue stamps in the name of the Republic of Sudan. These issues are also a violation of article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention.

"It is regrettable to note the diverse range of methods used to circulate these illegal stamps; they are published on the Internet and in publications aimed at the general promotion of philately.

"In this connection, we are counting on the initiatives taken by the Universal Postal Union and its bodies with a view to eradicating this phenomenon. We also appeal to all postal partners, as well as to the Universal Postal Union, to step up their efforts and vigilance in the face of this problem of illegal postage stamps, which may be issued, distributed and sold in their national territories, and also sent by post. We also call upon the various parties to carry out the necessary inquiries on this subject and to pass any relevant information or proof on to the UPU. We hope that cooperation by all parties will enable the culprits to be identified and prosecuted.

"The illegal stamps identified up to now are:

- 1 A miniature sheet with two stamps, one featuring a portrait of Pope John Paul II, inscribed with a value of 200, the year 2003 and the name of Sudan.
- 2 A miniature sheet with six stamps, each featuring a portrait of Pope John Paul II and the name of Sudan.

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3 A miniature sheet with six stamps, each featuring a portrait of Pope John Paul II, the year 2003 and the name of Sudan.

4 A miniature sheet with two stamps featuring a portrait of Pope John Paul II, the year 2003 and the name of Sudan."

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN
Director of Markets