

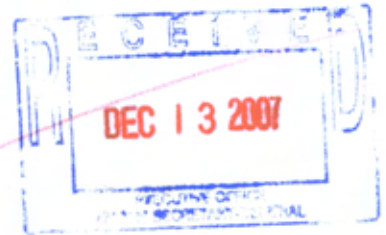
United Nations



Nations Unies

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR



TO: Mr. Vijay Nambiar
A: Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 13 December 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: *H-H* Horst Heitmann
DE: Director
Security Council Affairs Division
Department of Political Affairs

SUBJECT: Security Council: Report on Activities
OBJET:

Attached please find, for the attention of the Secretary-General, a note on the proceedings of the Security Council on Wednesday, 12 December 2007 (a.m.).

cc: Mr. Pascoe
Mr. Menkerios



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 12 December 2007 (a.m.)

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)

The Council heard briefings by Mr. Shola Omoregie, Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, and USG Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) and head of UNODC. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/715), Mr. Omoregie urged the international community to support the Lisbon International Conference on Drug Trafficking in Guinea-Bissau on 19 December. On security sector reform (SSR), he stressed the importance of conducting a census of the armed forces, which was a vital step for obtaining the necessary financial assistance for the SSR projects. On the political front, he indicated that while a public announcement had not been made, there were indications that the elections would take place in October/November 2008. In this regard, he stressed that it was crucial that international partners come forward without delay with financial and technical assistance, as voter registration must be conducted on time between January and February 2008 so that the voters' list could be ready for use in the elections.

Mr. Costa stated that according to UNODC estimates, around 40 tons of cocaine had been trafficked through West Africa this year. In Guinea-Bissau alone, the value of the drug trade was much greater than its national income of \$304 million. He stated that the drug problem not only destabilized the country but also had a destabilizing effect on the entire region. He underscored the need to help the government to enhance security and regain control of its border. An operational plan to combat drug trafficking into the region had been drawn up by UNODC and the government. He said that this plan called for international assistance in the form of expertise, equipment and training to help Guinea-Bissau control its borders; and called for the establishment of specialized units within the judiciary police and for urgent steps to strengthen the administration of justice. Mr. Costa urged the Council to support these initiatives, as well as the 19 December Lisbon pledging conference.

Council members welcomed the "significant strides" made by the government in pursuing national reconciliation, restoring the credibility of the country externally, and promoting cooperation with international financial authorities. However, they acknowledged that the overall situation remained fragile and called for sustained international assistance in order to achieve durable peace and

stability. For this reason, they reiterated their support for the extension of UNOGBIS' mandate until the end of 2008.

France, Belgium, the United States and the United Kingdom called on the parties to fix a date for the legislative elections without delay by overcoming the remaining differences among them. In this context, the US delegation noted the replacement of the Interior Minister by an appointee from the Social Renewal Party (PRS), and expressed the hope for an effective implementation of the Political Stability Pact, which had been signed by the country's three main political parties, including the PRS. Belgium supported the intention of the Secretary-General to convert UNOGBIS into an integrated mission. Ambassador Verbeke stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to assist the country. Ghana and South Africa called for an early implementation of the emergency post-conflict assistance (EPCA) programme sponsored by the IMF. Qatar urged the government to combat corruption and promote the rule of law.

At the centre of the Council's concern was the growing narcotics trafficking. Members acknowledged that it posed a threat not only to the country but also to the regional and international communities. Many delegations, such as South Africa, Italy, Ghana, Indonesia and Congo, stressed the need for a comprehensive approach involving international as well as regional stakeholders, and called on the participants of the forthcoming Lisbon Conference to come forward with generous assistance in this regard. China recalled that his country, which used to be a "closed society", had suffered from the "deep scourge" of drug trafficking after the opening of its borders. He cited the two lessons learned from China's own experience: the need to take strong measures against drug-related crime in cooperation with regional and international bodies; and the necessity to address the underlying problems by helping drug-producing countries to find alternative crops.

In the context of addressing the drug issue, many delegations (e.g. Ghana, Peru, Qatar, Belgium, France, China) underlined the necessity to facilitate security sector reform, with a view to enabling the country to deal with its security problems on its own. They welcomed the EU's cooperation in this respect.

Delegations reaffirmed their support for Guinea-Bissau's request that it be placed on the agenda of the PBC. Belgium noted that it was a "shame" that despite the urgency of the matter, so much time had gone by for the referral of Guinea-Bissau to the PBC. China appealed to the PBC to start consultations with Guinea-Bissau as soon as possible. Panama believed that even after the acceptance of it by the PBC, Guinea-Bissau should remain on the agenda of the Council, and suggested that the Chairman of the PBC and the countries concerned

should be invited to the Council's discussions on the subject in the future.

Council members expressed general support for the contents of a draft press statement prepared by Ghana. However, the Russian Federation voiced concern at the length of the draft, and called for expert-level consultations in order to make it more concise. Similar concerns were expressed by Panama and Italy, with the latter stressing the need to make a press statement "punchy" focusing on a few major points. It was agreed that the Council would discuss the draft text at the expert level in the afternoon.

Responding to questions, Mr. Omoregie stated that the international community could support the envisaged election in Guinea-Bissau by providing financial and other assistance. He reiterated the need for the parties to decide on a date for the legislative elections as soon as possible. On the SSR projects, he appreciated the support provided by the EU, which had become a major partner of the country in this respect. As for the drug problem, Mr. Omoregie stated that shortly after the consultations, he would consult with Mr. Costa on how best to coordinate efforts with UNODC. He would also meet Ms. McAskie to discuss matters related to the PBC.

Mr. Costa noted with appreciation that the Council dealt with the drug issue as a security threat, and expressed the hope that participants of the Lisbon Conference would pledge generous assistance for the proposed anti-narcotics project.

Other matters

Central African Republic (CAR): France drew the Council's attention to the revised text of a draft press statement, which had been put under the non-objection procedure following yesterday's consultations (Attachment). Since the silence had not been broken, Ambassador Lacroix hoped that the text would be read out immediately following the consultations. Qatar regretted that his delegation's proposal to have a reference to the ICC's investigation of the crimes allegedly committed in CAR had not been retained.

It was agreed that the President issue the press statement at the close of the meeting.

Middle East/Lebanon: France referred to yet another terrorist attack in Beirut today, which had killed General Francois al-Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces and others. Ambassador Lacroix characterized the attack, which had taken place at a sensitive moment, as an attempt to destabilize the country. He expressed his delegation's intention to circulate a draft PRST on the issue this afternoon for adoption later in the day.

Kosovo (19 December): Ambassador Churkin (Russian Federation) raised the "Key elements" for a PRST on Kosovo, which his delegation had circulated to Council members on 7 December, in preparation for the Council's taking up the Kosovo issue on 19 December. In several interventions, Ambassador Churkin restated his Government's position that there could be no stability in Kosovo, or the region, unless an agreed settlement was reached. Disputing the belief of some other Council members that the potential for a negotiated settlement had been exhausted, he stressed that the Troika's report contained no such conclusion. He noted that not "all" options had been reviewed, but only, according to the Troika report, "a wide range". Although the parties had understandably not reached agreement in the short 120-day period allotted, Serbia had added quite a few new important elements to the concept of wider Kosovo autonomy. In Ambassador Churkin's view, the "considerable depth" shown in Serbia's position had the potential to lead to a settlement. "The gap has become extremely narrow", he concluded.

The United Kingdom stated categorically that the potential for a negotiated settlement had been exhausted. There was a need to settle Kosovo's status and bring the matter to a conclusion. If the Council could not unite behind the clear option on the table, which would have been preferable, the European States would need themselves to move forward. Ambassador Sawers stressed that if the Russian Federation had not in any way changed its position since the previous discussions in the Council, members could not now try to "paper over fundamental differences". The United States similarly remarked that it was clear that the Council was deadlocked in a fundamental difference of opinion. Ambassador Khalilzad noted that the "Key elements" implied there was continuing scope for negotiations between the parties, whereas it was clear that was not the case. Now was the time not to "fudge" such discrepancies, but for clarity. Ambassdor Khalilzad asserted that the Ahtisaari plan was a very reasonable basis for moving forward and, it being clear that the parties were not coming to an agreement, the Council should do the "right thing" and endorse that plan. The situation was unstable and the Council would have to deliver on its responsibilities. France (Ambassador Lacroix) and Belgium (Ambassador Verbeke), while agreeing with the United Kingdom's statement that future negotiations had no hope of success, stressed that the "Key elements" therefore did not reflect a commonly held position of the Council.

Slovakia concurred that given the fundamental differences between the parties concerning Kosovo's status, there was no room for further negotiations to make a more positive shift in resolving the status issue. However, Ambassador Burian saw considerable convergence on status-neutral issues, which needed to be supported after status had been determined. China emphasized that the Council needed to show

prudence, determination and patience on this issue, as it did concerning other "hot issues", and stressed that the only solution to the Kosovo situation lay with a negotiated outcome.

After Ambassador Churkin, again taking the floor, emphasized that the "Key elements" were still very much on the table, Ambassador Khalilzad countered that the chasm over Kosovo's final status being as wide as ever, in the US view, "the PRST is dead".

In closing, Ambassador Churkin, noting Serbia's request to participate in the Council's discussion on Kosovo scheduled for 19 December, stated his understanding that the format would be changed from "consultations" to a "debate". The President stated his intention to raise this matter at the end of the afternoon's consultations.

Kiyotaka Kawabata/Mélanie Bouvard/Lorraine Sievers
SCSB/SCAD/12 December 2007

Attachment**Draft press statement****Central African Republic (Rev.3)**

The members of the Security Council heard yesterday a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. François Lonseny Fall, on the situation in the Central African Republic.

The members of the Security Council expressed their concern about the ongoing insecurity in the Central African Republic, which led to a severe humanitarian crisis. They condemned the ongoing violence by armed groups and called on all those groups, in particular those having signed peace agreements with the Government, to disarm without delay and to respond positively to the Government's willingness to engage in dialogue. They welcomed the extension of the mandate of the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community in the Central African Republic (FOMUC) and the Force's intention to deploy troops in the north-west of the country in order to respond to the growing insecurity in that area. They also welcomed the imminent deployment of the European Union operation (EUFOR) to eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic, while the African Union/ United Nations hybrid operation (UNAMID) is about to be deployed in Darfur.

The members of the Security Council took note with appreciation of the Government's preparations for an inclusive political dialogue, in respect for the Constitution, in particular the establishment of a Preparatory Committee to the dialogue. They urged the Government to hold that dialogue as soon as possible and called for the full participation of all the country's political and civil society stakeholders.

The members of the Security Council also called on the Government of the Central African Republic to take determined action to protect human rights, promote the rule of law and put an end to the widespread culture of impunity that prevails in the country, particularly among the security forces. They urged the Government to redouble its efforts to improve public governance, thereby ensuring that the State is better equipped to respond to the country's pressing social and economic needs. They emphasized the urgent need for security and justice sector reform.

The members of the Council welcomed the national and international efforts to investigate the crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic in 2002 and 2003.

The members of the Security Council expressed their support for the Special Representative and for the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), the mandate of which the Council has just extended for another year. They called on the international partners to strengthen their support for the authorities of the Central African Republic within priority areas for peacebuilding.
