

UNITED NATIONS
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



NATIONS UNIES
MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR



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

DATE: 30 May 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Horst Heitmann, Director
DE: Security Council Affairs Division, DPA

SUBJECT: Security Council: Report on activities
OBJET:

Attached please find, for the attention of the Secretary-General, a note on the informal consultations of the Security Council on Wednesday, 30 May 2007 (a.m.).

cc: Mr. Pascoe



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 30 May 2007 (a.m.)

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Timor-Leste

The SRSG for Timor-Leste and Head of UNMIT, Mr. Atul Khare, updated Council members on the latest developments in Timor-Leste, in particular the successful conduct of the presidential elections earlier this month owing, *inter alia*, the continued engagement of the international community. However, he stressed that one should not become complacent as the challenges of the parliamentary election still lied ahead. Drawing attention to indications of national reconciliation, SRSG Khare noted in particular that the parties had started to interact in a more constructive manner as illustrated by the recent signing of a Code of Conduct for the parliamentary elections. Considerable progress had been made in the screening and retraining the national police force (PNTL) in Dili. At the same time, due to the continued challenges in the security sector, UNMIT police continued to bear the prime responsibility for the maintenance of public order and security throughout the country. As the situation remained volatile, SRSG Khare underscored that any reduction of UNMIT police before the end of the year was undesirable. Elaborating on the issue of the conduct of UN personnel, he stressed that UNMIT was implementing a zero-tolerance policy relating to any form of misconduct by personnel. In closing, SRSG Khare invited the Council to visit Timor-Leste in October after the new parliament and government were established and fully functional. He believed that such a visit would be perceived as an illustration of the Council's continued engagement.

Members of the Council welcomed the successful holding of presidential elections in Timor-Leste and the acceptance of their results as a testimony of the commitment of the Timorese people and the country's political players to the process of national reconciliation. Members commended UNMIT and regional and international partners for their positive role in the preparation and the conduct of the presidential elections and stressed that they should ensure their continued support for the forthcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 30 June.

While welcoming the progress in the electoral process, speakers noted that the security situation remained fragile and that both the Timorese parties and the international community continued to face numerous challenges, most importantly in the area of security sector and judicial system reforms. On the issue of accountability, judicial sector reform and the rule of law, several delegations, including

Qatar, Belgium, Peru Ghana, Belgium and the United States, concurred with Mr. Khare that justice was a precondition for national reconciliation and there would be no accountability if the serious crimes dating back to 1999 were not adequately addressed. The United States stressed that adequate resources should be allocated to achieve that.

Furthermore, several members (Indonesia, Qatar, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom) observed that, in order to keep the electoral process on track and ensure post-electoral stability, the Timorese people should be able to see a tangible improvement of their living conditions. Several delegations highlighted, in that connection, the importance of addressing the issue of IDPs (South Africa, Qatar, Congo, and Ghana) and youth unemployment (South Africa and the United States). A number of speakers, including South Africa and the United Kingdom, also welcomed the progress in the International Compact process. Speakers indicated that while Timorese ownership was essential for the overall process of national reconciliation, democratization and post-conflict rehabilitation and development, UNMIT and the international community should also continue to play a key role in that process by providing assistance, including in the area of capacity-building.

While commenting favourably on UNMIT's performance in assisting the Timorese parties, Ghana welcomed the efforts made by the Mission to ensure the proper conduct of its personnel, while the United States specifically praised the steps to implement the policy of "zero tolerance" to any form of misconduct.

As to the proposed Council mission to Timor-Leste, South Africa agreed that such a mission should be conducted in October, so that members would have sufficient time to consider a possible modification of UNMIT's mandate before its expiration, while China and Panama welcomed this proposal.

Reacting to comments and questions on the electoral process, Mr. Khare gave examples of reconciliation among leading political figures, who, in the words of one of them, "while politically divided, remained personal friends". He stressed, however, that the reconciliation must spread among the followers of these leaders in order to ensure the development of a genuine democracy, characterized by political pluralism, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the demands of the people. Regarding to questions related specifically to police reform, Mr. Khare made it clear that international assistance should go far beyond screening, but expressed the hope that, with such assistance, the PNTL might become effective, efficient, responsible, accountable and non-partisan in three to five years. Mr. Khare pointed out that assistance to security and judicial sector reforms should not be limited to the provision of financial

resources, but should also include ideas for future development. He stressed, however, that the national authorities should assume full responsibility for and ownership of the reform processes; and they should review its progress and make it operational, so as to ensure that the outcome met the highest international standards.

Regarding the International Compact process, Mr. Khare indicated that technical consultations were underway on that issue with the political parties, civil society and the Catholic Church, aimed at ensuring acceptance of the Compact as a resource coordinating mechanism.

Responding to queries as to the possible mechanism that might ensure adherence of the Timorese parties to the Code of Conduct for the parliamentary elections, Mr. Khare stated that he had initially proposed a mechanism that would make it possible to go as far as to exclude violators of the Code from the electoral list. However, a "soft mechanism" had been agreed upon, according to which all parties concerned would establish a joint body to report alleged violations to the National Commission on Elections, the State authorities, UNMIT and to each other. The parties would then agree on steps to be taken against those who had violated the Code of Conduct.

Reacting to a comment by the United States, who had highlighted the importance of securing the ballots before their counting, Mr. Khare indicated that the newly elected President, Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, had proposed amendments to the Electoral Law envisaging the counting of ballots not at the polling stations (as had been done at the presidential elections) but at district level. Mr. Khare expressed the view that while that system might minimize the danger of intimidation of electoral officials in the field, it might create security challenges during the transportation of ballots. He had proposed, therefore, that in order to ensure transparency and credibility of the ballot counting process, the transportation should be carried out under UNMIT supervision and in the presence of national and international observers, media representatives and party representatives.

Responding to queries on his proposal for a Council mission to Timor-Leste, Mr. Khare indicated that such a mission would reaffirm the Council's engagement with Timor-Leste and would give members an opportunity to receive first-hand information about the situation on the ground.

Other matters

SC mission to Africa: Updating members on the upcoming mission to Addis Ababa and Accra, Ambassador Kumalo, speaking also on behalf of Ambassador Jones Parry, indicated that the TOR would shortly be

circulated to Council members. He noted that the TOR for the mission to Abidjan and Kinshasa were not yet finalized.

Lebanon/resolution 1559: Qatar reiterated his regret at the postponement of the briefing by Mr. Rød-Larsen on the latest Secretary-General's report on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2007/262). Questioning the reasons for such a delay put forward the previous day by the President (i.e. the apparent unavailability of Mr. Rød-Larsen), Minister Al-Qahtani reported that Qatar had contacted Mr. Rød-Larsen who had stated that he would have been prepared to deliver the briefing. In this connection, he expressed "concerns" and "confusion" at the way the issue had been handled, stressing that it would have been a "timely and important" briefing. Minister Al-Qahtani expressed the hope that such a situation would not take place in the future, and that any change in the Council's schedule would not be done without first consulting its members. The President replied that his delegation was in touch with Mr. Rød-Larsen to reschedule the briefing following his return from a trip to Europe on 11 June.

Burundi: France circulated a draft PRST on the issue which had been approved under the silence procedure. Council members agreed to adopt the text that afternoon prior to the consultations on Haiti.

Lebanon/Tribunal: Council members agreed to vote on the blue draft resolution (S/2007/315) on the issue at 3 p.m. that afternoon.

Middle East/Palestinian Question: The President reported on his 25 May meeting with representatives of the LAS, OIC and NAM during which they had discussed the situation in Gaza on the basis of the 24 May NAM Communiqué on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. In response to the situation, he circulated a draft press statement, which members agreed to issue without making any comment (Attachment).

Mélanie Bouvard/Vesselin Kostov/SCSB/SCAD/30 May 2007

Attachment**SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT ON BREAKDOWN OF CEASEFIRE IN GAZA STRIP (SC/9028)**

The following Security Council press statement on the breakdown of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip was delivered today by Council President Zalmay Khalilzad (United States):

The members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern at the breakdown of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the resulting increase in violence. The members welcomed the efforts of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to establish a ceasefire, and expressed appreciation for the active support of the Government of Egypt in this regard. They urged all parties to join the members of the Council in supporting the call of President Abbas for an immediate end to the violence.

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