

CODE OUT CT 109

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

ONLY

TO: GUÉHENNO, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

ONLYINFO: **NAMBIAR**, UNATIONS, NEW YORKNo DistributionFROM: SWING, MONUC, KINSHASA *mm hay*

DATE: 23 January 2007

NUMBER: CCX- 052

SUBJECT: **Secretary General's visit: Briefing papers and biographical sketch of President Sassou Nguesso**

1. Attached are briefing papers on:

--sexual violence

--senatorial elections

--formation of the new government

--role of MONUC's Quick Impact Projects

--MONUC's Field and Liaison Offices

2. A biographical sketch of President Sassou Nguesso is also included.

Best regards

[Drafted by E. Kissam]

UNITED NATIONS
01 JAN 23 10 54

1/9

CEX052

MONUC Field and Liaison Offices

- **Role of the Field and Liaison Offices:** MONUC Field and Liaison Offices carry out the policies and directives set out by the SRSG in implementing the Mission's mandate in their respective Areas of Responsibility (AOR). As such, Field and Liaison Offices are led at the political level and bring together, where necessary, DDR, DDRRR, Human Rights, Rule of Law, UN Police, Elections, Civil Affairs, Child Protection, Gender, Mine Action, Public Information, Administration, Security and other sections of the Mission, to effectively, and in full coordination with MONUC Military, address the multi-dimensional issues and tasks related to mandate implementation in their respective AOR.

Most Field Offices are based in provincial capitals with sub-offices in the province as necessary. The exceptions are Ituri—a district-based Field Office—and Katanga, which for historical reasons has two Field Offices: one in Kalemie and the other in Lubumbashi. The Liaison Offices are located at Kigali (Rwanda), Kampala (Uganda) and Pretoria (South Africa).

- **Accountability and Management:** Field and Liaison Offices are led by a Head of Office (HoO) who reports directly to the SRSG and receives guidance from the SRSG and his Deputies on issues under their responsibility. The Offices are staffed by personnel deployed by relevant sections of the Mission. These personnel report directly to the Head of Office and receive technical advice and support from their respective Section Chiefs at HQ.

At MONUC HQ, the Principal Advisor/Head of Office Coordinator provides guidance and support for the work of the Field and Liaison Offices; coordinates mission-wide policy issues related to their work; keeps them informed and updated on overall Mission strategy and procedures; ensures that the Offices receive adequate input and feedback from HQ; and that the work of the Field and Liaison Offices is supportive of, and conducted within, the overall strategy of the Mission.

- **Organisation of Work:** Each Field and Liaison Office is responsible for the development of a politico-security strategy covering its AOR. The strategy begins with an analysis of the key factors that relate to politico-security tensions in the AOR, followed by the objectives for building national capacity to peacefully address these tensions, and finally, the key tasks that need to be fulfilled by the local community in reaching these objectives. The strategy is based on input from all substantive sections. The UNCT in the AOR is also consulted on the strategy to ensure that the work of MONUC and the UNCT in the AOR are mutually supportive.
- **Way Forward:** The Field Offices would continue to play a key role in consolidating the achievements in the post-electoral period. These offices would strive to develop close and cooperative relationship with the newly elected provincial assemblies and administrations in order to establish a strong and inclusive democratic culture, good

CCX 052

governance, transparency and accountability. MONUC Offices would provide maximum support and guidance to the newly established institutions while remaining cognizant of their sovereignty and independence.

Keeping in view the shift in focus and priority to development and reconstruction in the post-electoral period and the related increasing importance of UN agencies, international NGOs and donor partners/agencies, MONUC offices will strive to develop very close and collaborative relations with these partners and ensure maximum support from within MONUC's capacity.

COX_052

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

- **DRC Context in relation to QIPs Unit:** QIPs are bringing MONUC and the Congolese population closer together by improving the lives of ordinary people, building local capacity to manage and implement small scale projects, and giving the mission at all levels an opportunity to respond to the most pressing needs. MONUC is often the first on the ground in areas where regular UN system programmes and NGOs can't yet reach. MONUC Peacekeeping forces are also benefiting from implementing QIPs to win the population's support in the most troubled areas of the country. QIPs funding is often used as 'seed money', creating opportunities and encouraging UN agencies and other donors to take over. At MONUC, QIPs have been addressing issues such as sexual and gender based violence, rule of law, rights of vulnerable groups, reintegration of ex-combatants, improvements to access, etc.
- **Accomplishments:** \$1 million was approved for QIPs for the current fiscal year. To date, 44 projects have been approved by the SRSG and 40% of the QIPs budget has been committed. The QIPs budget will be fully committed before the end June 07.

Impacts of QIPs on the local population since the inception of the program are:

- MONUC has benefited from an annual QIPs budget since 2001 and has received a total of **US\$5.1 million**. It has approved/implemented more than **432** projects:

Fiscal Year	Allotment Received	Total Expenditure	No. of Projects Implemented
2000/2001	\$ 300,000	\$254,656	(not available)
2001/2002	\$ 700,000	\$576,855	93
2002/2003	\$ 100,000	\$ 98,372	18
2003/2004	\$1 million	\$945,888	89
2004/2005	\$1 million	\$996,804	104
2005/2006	\$1 million	\$998,986	84
2006/2007*	\$1 million	-	44
Total:	\$5.1 million	\$3.9 million	432

* as of 31 December 2006

- **50%** of the QIPS budget is implemented in the **war torn provinces** of Ituri, Kivus and Katanga. Ituri and Kivus are also the provinces with the largest MONUC military presence, thus helping to build confidence with the local population.
- Over **6 million direct and indirect beneficiaries** (roughly 10% of the population) have benefited from the QIPS program.
- Support of students (girls targeted), sustainable and replicable community projects for returnees, awareness and training of vulnerable groups (women, physically challenged, ex-combatants, street children, victims of sexual violence, etc.), support to independent media, conflict resolution, electoral sensitization and

CCX 052

improvements of access to social services are some of the major impact that the QIPs have had.

- It is a major opportunity to show MONUC's interaction with the population.
- **Way Forward:** MONUC's senior management has recommended the extension of the QIPs program to sustain MONUC's effort in support of transition and UNCT finalization of national level planning and programs in the post-elections period. \$1 million has been requested for fiscal year 07/08.

CCX 052

Sexual Violence in the DRC

The number of victims of sexual violence is not known, but the incidence is thought to be amongst the highest in Africa

- Sexual violence is one of the most shameful, serious and far-reaching consequences of the war. All armed groups and forces – Congolese and foreign – have used rape as a weapon of war. Sexual violence has been deplorable both for its massive scale and its brutality. Victims have included women, children, and to a lesser degree, men. Conservative estimates suggest tens of thousands of women and girls ranging in age from the very old to babies only a few months old have been affected.

New forms of sexual violence have emerged because of social crisis

- After years of conflict, state failure and economic collapse, new forms of sexual violence associated with severe social crisis have emerged in families, communities and institutions. These include: community conflicts that erupt in violent acts; the appearances of certain beliefs linked to HIV/AIDS by which sexual relations with young children or older women are thought to prevent or cure the disease; incest and conjugal violence; increases in sexual exploitation, for example, in artisanal mining centres; and exchange of sexual favours with students for grades at school.

Impunity for sexual violence remains widespread and a root cause of the phenomenon

- Very few rape cases are brought to justice – although the recent prosecutions of perpetrators of mass rape in Songo Mboyo, Equateur, in which MONUC played a key investigative role, has proven an important exception. The promulgation of a new law on sexual violence in July 2006 will help, but until stigmatisation of victims is reduced, their access to justice is improved, their protection from retaliation is assured and the State is prepared to prosecute perpetrators, sexual violence will remain one of the DRC's gravest social problems.

UN Agencies are combining their resources in a highly innovative joint programme

- Since 2004, the "Joint Initiative to Address Sexual Violence" has brought together three UN Agencies, seven Government Ministries, and international and national NGOs under the leadership of UNFPA. Through this initiative, the actions of different players are coordinated. There are now two joint projects UNFPA-UNOHCHR-UNICEF, financed by Belgium and Canada, that operate in five provinces, Equateur, Maniema, Orientale, South and North Kivu.
- The joint initiative includes prevention, capacity building for partners, medical and psychosocial care, livelihoods support, legal assistance for victims, and the strengthening of the legal framework and its application. As a result of the programme, 12,037 cases – an average of 67 cases per day for the first six months of 2006 – have been recorded. More than 10,000 victims have benefited from medical care; 13,000 victims have received psychosocial care and counselling; 5,000 victims have received from livelihoods support; 8,000 social workers have been trained; and more than one million people have been reached through awareness-raising. But much more remains to be done to combat this highly prevalent and disturbing social crisis.

CCX 052

Senate elections

- On 19 January 2007, the 690 Members of the Provincial Assemblies elected the Senate (108 seats). In accordance with the Constitution, elections were conducted across the 11 current provinces but organized in such a way so as to represent the future 26 new provinces in the Senate (four seats for each of the 25 new provinces and eight for Kinshasa).
- With support from a number of independent candidates, Kabila's *Alliance pour la Majorité Présidentielle* (AMP) and its allies (PALU and UDEMO) secured 69 seats, which leaves it with a comfortable majority in the Senate. Bemba's *Union pour la Nation* (UpN) and allies obtained 32 seats, and Ruberwa's *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie* (RCD) 7 seats.
- The AMP has obtained the majority of the senatorial seats in nine (out of 11) provinces (Bandundu, Bas Congo, Equateur, Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental, Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Province Orientale). Despite controlling the absolute majority of seats in three Provincial Assemblies (Kinshasa, Bas Congo and Equateur) the UpN only managed to secure the majority of the seats in Kinshasa (5 out of 8).
- Among those elected are a number of key actors of the Transition, including former Vice Presidents Jean-Pierre **Bemba** (Kinshasa) and Abdoulaye **Yerodia** (Bas Congo); former Senate President **Marini** Bodho (Province Orientale), Kabila's Directeur de Cabinet She **Okitundu** (Kasai Oriental), Minister of Foreign Affairs Raymond **Ramazani** Baya (Province Orientale), former RCD Governor **Lola Kisanga** (Province Orientale) and Evariste **Mabi** Mulumba, President of the *Cour des Comptes* (Kasai Occidental).
- The local press highlighted the election of a number of "political dinosaurs", such as former Mobutu Prime Minister Léon **Kengo** wa Dondo (Equateur), Bemba's father Jeannot **Bemba Saloana** (Equateur), a famous businessman and close ally of Mobutu, Mobutu's principal security adviser Edouard **Mokolo** Mpombo (Equateur), and the Prime Minister of the first transition in 1991, Vincent de Paul **Lunda Bululu** (Katanga).
- The opening of the extraordinary session of the Senate is scheduled for 3 February. After the confirmation of the posts and the adoption of its rules of procedure, the Senate will elect its permanent *Bureau*. So far, Abdoulaye Yerodia and She Okitundu appear to be the top AMP candidates to fill the Senate Presidency. Jean Pierre Bemba, equally interested in the post, is unlikely to be elected President given AMP's dominance of the Upper House.

CCX 002

**Briefing Book Input for the Secretary-General
Formation of the New Government**

- The new Government has yet to take shape.
- On 30 December 2006, fulfilling a campaign commitment, President Kabila appointed 81-year old Antoine Gizenga as Prime Minister. Gizenga is the veteran leader of PALU (*Parti Unifié Lumumbiste*) and was a close associate of, and Deputy Prime Minister to first President Patrice Lumumba. Gizenga has since embarked on a series of consultations with a view to establishing the new Government as soon as possible. Media speculation is rife that the Government is nearing completion.
- The Prime Minister's spokesman announced two weeks ago that the Government would comprise approximately 60 members, including 38 Ministers – 5 to 7 of them with senior status (*Ministres d'État*) – and 20 Deputy Ministers. The large size of the Government has, unsurprisingly, raised fears of inefficiency as well as of significant cost.
- There seems to be broad agreement as to the distribution of ministerial and deputy-ministerial posts between the political parties that together form the presidential grouping: the President's PPRD (*Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Démocratie*), the MSR (*Mouvement Social pour le Renouveau*) led by Kabila's close ally and Security Advisor Samba Kaputo, and the Prime Minister's PALU.
- However, if the number of posts each party will control has been agreed, the identity of those to take up the posts has not. Political parties have reportedly been asked to submit to the Prime Minister two names for each of the posts they will be entitled to. The Prime Minister will then present, for the President's endorsement, the list of nominees he has picked. Gizenga is thought to be holding out against a number of candidates – among them some key allies of the President – whom he does not see as meeting his criteria of "competence and integrity". There are already indications that certain powerful political actors from the war years may be left outside the Government, a fact they may not readily accept.

CCX 052

Dennis Sassou Nguesso: President of the Republic of Congo and the African Union



Born in 1943 at Edou in the north of the country, Sassou Nguesso enlisted in the Congolese Armed Forces in 1960. After pursuing various military courses from 1961-1966, in Central African Republic, Algeria and France, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Following the completion of his training as a paratrooper, he was appointed the Head of the Congolese Airport Troops at the age of 25.

In 1970, he joined the Congolese Labour Party (CLP) and in 1975 was appointed as the Minister of Defence at the age of 32. After the murder of President Marien Ngouabi in 1977, Sassou Nguesso became the interim president of the Republic. In 1979, he was elected President of the Congolese Labor Party and became President of the Republic later that year.

In 1986, he was elected President of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and President of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

In 1991, Sassou opened the way for elections, but finished third in the presidential race held the following year. Pascal Lissouba won the elections but soon had a fall-out with the runner-up, Bernard Kolelas, former Mayor of Brazzaville, with whom he had attempted to form a coalition government. The army split along ethnic lines and a full-scale civil war broke out in 1997. Sassou, living in exile in France, controlled one part of the army, the Cobra-militia which was backed by Angolan troops, and fought in the civil war against the militias of Kolelas and of Lissouba.

The civil war in Congo-Brazzaville (1997) lasted only a couple of months but claimed over 3,000 lives. President Sassou returned to Congo-Brazzaville in October 1997, after the defeat of Lissouba's and Bernard Kolelas' militias. He became President of the Republic on 25 October 1997. His opponents went into exile while militia loyal to them withdrew to the Pool, the area in the south of the country where pockets of instability remained.

In 2002, Sassou won a new round of Presidential elections while his main rivals were excluded from participating by a residency law.

Sassou Nguesso is an influential player in Central Africa. By marriage, he is related to President Omar Bongo of Gabon. He also maintains good relations with President Dos Santos of Angola.

In 2006, Sassou Nguesso was elected President of the African Union. On several occasions, he was actively involved in the peace process unfolding in the neighboring DRC, in particular during the last stages of the Transition in 2006. He tried to encourage UDPS leader Tshisekedi, albeit without success, to participate in the elections. Later in the year, he played a pivotal role in curbing tensions between the main contenders Kabila and Bemba during the period between the two rounds of presidential elections.

Early in January 2007, relations between Congo's former colonial power, France, and Brazzaville deteriorated after France's highest court ordered the reopening of an investigation into whether Congolese officials were involved in torturing and killing hundreds of civil war refugees who vanished in 1999 following their return to Brazzaville. President Sassou has denounced the court's decision as an act of provocation.