

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please see attached for your approval and the Secretary-General's signature two letters addressed to President Isaias of Eritrea and Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia.

On the seventh anniversary of the 18 June 2000 Algiers Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, the letters express concern at several outstanding implementation issues, renew the commitment of the United Nations, and seek the cooperation of the parties with UNMEE as well as their continued respect of the Temporary Security Zone.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AG'.

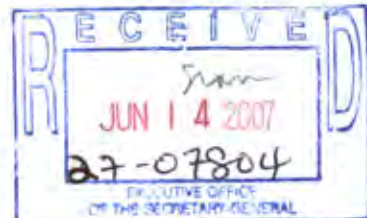
Andrew Gilmour
14 June 2007

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo

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AG



PRIORITY

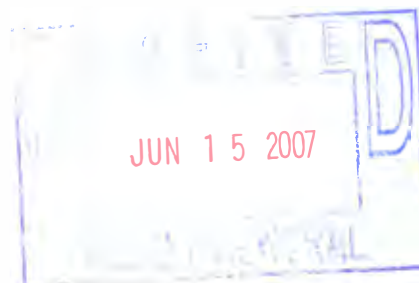
UNMEE

Note to Mr. NambiarDraft letters from the **Secretary-General** to the President of Eritrea and Prime Minister of **Ethiopia**

1. As you are aware, in its 8 May press statement (copy attached), Security Council members stressed that they look forward to the continuation of the **Secretary-General** and the international community's ongoing efforts to engage, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1741 (2007) of 30 January 2007, with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them normalize their relations.
2. In this regard, we recommend that the **Secretary-General** send the attached draft letters to President Isaias of Eritrea and Prime Minister Meles of **Ethiopia** on the occasion of the seventh anniversary - on 18 June 2000 - of the signature of the Algiers Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities between the two countries. The letters provide an opportunity to reiterate the United Nations position with regard to the normalization of relations between the two countries, the implementation of the decision of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission, as well as UNMEE's operations. The draft letters have been agreed with DPA, OLA and UNMEE.
3. We would be grateful for the Secretary-General's early signature of the letters, given that they should be dispatched prior to 18 June.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno
13 June 2007

cc: Mr. Pascoe



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 June 2007

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you ahead of the seventh anniversary of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, concluded in Algiers on 18 June 2000. This landmark Agreement marked the end of years of war and opened prospects for the normalization of relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

I should like to stress the importance of continued commitment to this historic Agreement and to encourage your Government to refrain from any action that could undermine it or lead to an escalation of tensions between the two countries.

The United Nations is deeply concerned about the continued stalemate in the boundary demarcation process. The full and unconditional implementation of the 13 April 2002 Delimitation Decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), as called for by repeated resolutions of the Security Council, is a long-standing position of the United Nations, and I remain firmly committed to it.

I appeal to your Government to extend the necessary cooperation and support to the Commission to allow it to complete its work in an expeditious manner. I believe that Eritrea and Ethiopia could benefit from the presence of the EEBC and assistance it still can provide.

Excellency, while I understand your concern about the time that has passed since the establishment of the "Temporary Security Zone" (TSZ), I am nevertheless deeply concerned about the violations of the TSZ that have taken place. The TSZ has made possible the separation of forces between the two countries and contributed to the prevention of hostilities. In this regard,

His Excellency
Mr. Isaias Afwerki
President of the State of Eritrea
Asmara

I appeal to you to refrain from hostile statements, to withdraw your troops and other armed elements from the TSZ, and to extend full cooperation to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), which was deployed at the request of both countries. Such cooperation should include the lifting of restrictions imposed on UNMEE, which have severely undermined its ability to fulfill its mandate.

In addition, as you know, the Security Council intends to conduct in the near future a review of the present mandate of UNMEE. In this regard, I believe that both Governments should take advantage of the continued presence of UNMEE to help implement the Algiers Agreements, develop confidence-building measures, normalize relations, and cooperate in various areas of common interest, such as demining as well as humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

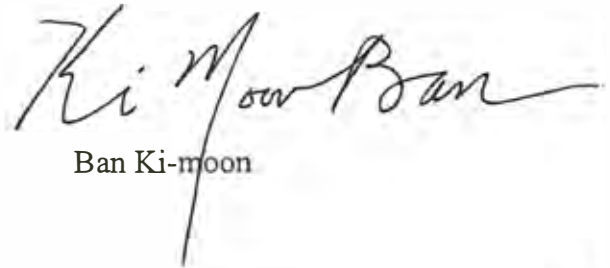
I should also recall that in its resolution 1741 (2007) of 30 January 2007, the Security Council called upon the international community and the Secretary-General "to engage with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them to normalize their relations, to promote stability between the parties, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in the region". Accordingly, I stand ready to work diligently to assist Eritrea and Ethiopia in any effort they may undertake to normalize their relations. In this regard I intend to appoint my new Special Representative for UNMEE in consultations with both parties. At the same time, in order to uphold the ceasefire arrangements under the Algiers Agreements, it would also be important for the two Governments to respond positively to the appeal of UNMEE to resume the work of the Military Coordination Commission without delay.

Excellency, I deeply appreciate your receiving Mr. Lynn Pascoe, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and my Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. François Fall, on 9 June 2007. Mr. Pascoe has given me a preliminary readout of his positive conversation with you and will report fully next week to me and to the Security Council. I would like to reiterate that I want to work closely with Eritrea to resolve the above problems and to help promote stability in the region.

I look forward to receiving your views on the need to fully implement, without further delay, the Algiers Agreement including the final and binding decision of the EEBC.

I should like to inform you that I have sent a similar letter to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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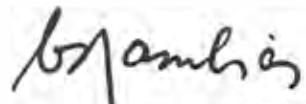
14 June 2007

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you would kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency, Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea.

A copy of the letter is also enclosed, for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Araya Desta
Permanent Representative of the State
of Eritrea to the United Nations
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 June 2007

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you ahead of the seventh anniversary of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, concluded in Algiers on 18 June 2000. This landmark Agreement marked the end of years of war and opened prospects for the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

I should like to stress the importance of continued commitment to this historic Agreement and to encourage your Government to refrain from any action that could undermine it or lead to an escalation of tensions between the two countries.

The United Nations is deeply concerned about the continued stalemate in the boundary demarcation process. The full and unconditional implementation of the 13 April 2002 Delimitation Decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), as called for by repeated resolutions of the Security Council, is a long-standing position of the United Nations, and I remain firmly committed to it.

In this regard, I am very encouraged by your 29 March 2007 statement to Parliament that the Ethiopian Government had accepted the final and binding decision of the EEBC. I appeal to your Government to extend the necessary cooperation and support to the Commission to allow it to complete its work in an expeditious manner. I believe that Ethiopia and Eritrea could benefit from the presence of the EEBC and assistance it can still provide.

At the same time, any violation of the "Temporary Security Zone" (TSZ) established by the Algiers Agreement, is a source of serious concern. The creation of the TSZ is an essential aspect of the Agreement, which allowed for the separation of forces between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and contributed to the prevention of hostilities.

His Excellency
Mr. Meles Zenawi
Prime Minister of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Addis Ababa

In this regard, I have appealed to President Isaias Afwerki of the State of Eritrea to take steps to restore the integrity of the Zone. This should include immediate withdrawal from the TSZ and its proximity of troops, equipment and other armed elements, whose presence was not authorized by the Agreement. I urge your Government to take corresponding steps by withdrawing your forces from the Adjacent Area south of the TSZ.

In addition, as you know, the Security Council intends to conduct in the near future a review of the present mandate of UNMEE. In this regard, I believe that both Governments should take advantage of the continued presence of UNMEE to help implement the Algiers Agreements, develop confidence-building measures, normalize relations, and cooperate in various areas of common interest, such as demining, as well as facilitating provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

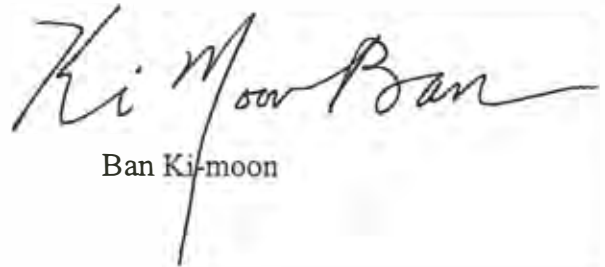
I should also recall that in its resolution 1741 (2007) of 30 January 2007, the Security Council called upon the international community and the Secretary-General "to engage with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them to normalize their relations, to promote stability between the parties, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in the region". I therefore stand ready to work diligently to assist Ethiopia and Eritrea in any effort they may undertake to normalize their relations. In this regard, I intend to appoint my new Special Representative for UNMEE in consultation with both parties. At the same time, in order to uphold the ceasefire arrangements under the Algiers Agreements, it would also be particularly important for the two Governments to respond positively to the appeal of UNMEE to resume the work of the Military Coordination Commission without delay.

Excellency, I deeply appreciate your receiving Mr. Lynn Pascoe, my Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and my Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. François Fall, on 11 June 2007. Mr. Pascoe has given me a preliminary readout of his positive conversation with you and will report fully next week to me and to the Security Council. I would like to reiterate that I want to work closely with Ethiopia to resolve the above problems and to help promote stability in the region.

I look forward to receiving your views on the need to fully implement, without further delay, the Algiers Agreement, including the final and binding decision of the EEBC.

I should like to inform you that I have sent a similar letter to President Isaias Afwerki of the State of Eritrea.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon

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A copy of the letter is also enclosed, for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Dawit Yohannes
Permanent Representative of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
to the United Nations
New York

8 May 2007



Security Council

SC/9014

AFR/1529

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT ON ETHIOPIA, ERITREA

The following Security Council press statement on Ethiopia and Eritrea was delivered on 8 May by Council President Zalmay Khalilzad (United States):

Members of the Security Council remain deeply concerned by the impasse in the Eritrea-Ethiopia peace process and by the growing tension between the two countries.

Members of the Security Council once again reaffirm the integrity of the Temporary Security Zone and urge both parties to withdraw immediately their troops and equipment from positions within and in close proximity to the Temporary Security Zone.

Members of the Security Council are encouraged by the statement that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia made to Parliament on 29 March 2007 that the Ethiopian Government had accepted the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), and demand Ethiopia implement fully and without delay the EEBC decision.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their support to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and their demand that Eritrea reverse, without delay or preconditions, all restrictions on UNMEE's movement and operations, and call upon both parties to fully cooperate with UNMEE with a view to resuming the meetings of the Military Coordination Commission.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their call on both parties to show maximum restraint and to refrain from hostile public statements and from any threat or use of force against each other.

Members of the Security Council welcome and look forward to the continuation of the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General and the international community to engage, as stipulated in resolution 1741 (2007), including by appointing a new Special Representative, with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them to normalize their relations, to promote stability between the parties and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in the region.

Members of the Security Council reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the peace process, including in the full and expeditious implementation of the Algiers Agreements and implementation of the final and binding EEBC decision and, in this regard, call upon both parties to request and enable the Boundary Commission to proceed with the complete and prompt demarcation of the border.

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