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see point #6

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Confidential

Update Note for the Secretary-General

31 July 2009

1. Israel/Lebanon

Mood, citing media sources reports<sup>1</sup> that Israel is considering negotiating with Lebanon by reestablishing one of the 1949 armistice commissions that ended Israel's War of Independence. Israel officials have been discussing the matter with the US, UN and EU. PM Netanyahu has asked the Foreign Ministry to present its opinion on the issue to the cabinet in the coming weeks.

While there have been talks in recent years with Syria and the Palestinians, the Israeli-Lebanese track has remained quiet. The 1949 armistice commission functioned regularly until 1967, but was disbanded at Israel's initiative. The Lebanese-Israeli commission convened at border crossings at Rosh Hanikra and Metula with the participation of two Israeli representatives, two Lebanese and a chairman from the UN.

Decisions were taken by majority vote, with the UN representative breaking the tie when necessary. Lebanon has repeatedly declared that it would be the last Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel. Nonetheless, the Lebanese have said the armistice commission could serve as a channel for diplomatic talks with Israel as a precursor to peace negotiations.

Serry reports<sup>2</sup> that the Quartet Envoys met this afternoon in UNSCO HQ to follow up on the tasking set by the Quartet Principals in Trieste on 26 June 2009.

On Gaza, the Envoys concurred that the Israelis are aware that their strategy towards the Gaza Strip is not working. Hale was concerned that the situation there remained fragile and Gaza had the potential to "blow up all of our efforts". The Envoys shared the impression that the release of Shalit remained the key to substantially improving access into the Gaza Strip. EU Envoy Otte expressed reservations that even if Shalit were to be freed, they could not guarantee significant change in Gaza and his own recent contacts with Israeli interlocutors confirm this assessment.

<sup>1</sup> (UNTSO-CHY-50 of 30/7/09)

<sup>2</sup> (CJX-70 of 31 July 2009)

Kayo

to attend to  
canonization.

P.C

The Envoys agreed to reinvigorate cooperation between them here on the ground through greater coordination of both actions and messaging. US Deputy Envoy Hale made it clear that, while he is very happy to coordinate and share information, formal monitoring will remain the prerogative of the US.

Serry proposed 25 September 2009 for a Principals' meeting in New York and urged the Envoys to finalize the date for the meeting as soon as possible. They also discussed the possibility of using that occasion to hold more than one Envoys meeting to follow up on the substantial agenda before them.

Tony Blair, Quartet Special Representative, has written reporting generally on his transformative agenda. There is little new in the letter.

## **2. Cyprus**

Zerihoun reports<sup>3</sup> that scheduled talks between Cypriot leaders continued yesterday with focus on governance and power-sharing issues (aliens, citizenship, immigration, and asylum). Almost a year of negotiations will come to an end next week with the 40<sup>th</sup> round on 6 August. At that meeting, the leaders will mark a formal end of the first reading, and the start of the second reading.

## **3. Afghanistan**

UNAMA today issued its mid-year report on the protection of civilians. It recorded 1013 civilian deaths in the first six months of 2009, an increase of 24% as compared to the same period in 2008. 59% of the civilian deaths (595) were attributed to anti-government elements (AGEs), and 30.5% (310) to pro-government elements (PGFs), representing a significant shift from 2007 when PGFs were responsible for 41% and AGEs for 46% of civilian deaths.

Despite a high priority given by international military forces to minimising civilian casualties, air strikes remain the largest cause of civilian deaths attributed to PGF. It acknowledges a greater openness by the international military forces, in particular ISAF, concerning specific

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<sup>3</sup> (CSY-070 of 30 July 2009)



incidents and a greater willingness to acknowledge civilian casualties. However, the level of their transparency towards UNAMA remains a concern.

Regarding the AGEs, the reports notes a continuing trend of a shift in tactics to insurgent or guerrilla type activities, including asymmetric attacks such as suicide, car and road side bombs), and targeted assassinations. 67% of civilian deaths attributed to AGEs were the result of indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks. UNAMA comments that information suggests that AGEs are basing themselves in civilian areas so as to deliberately blur the distinction between combatants and civilians, and as part of what appears to be an active policy aimed at drawing a military response to areas where there is a high likelihood that civilians will be killed or injured.

#### **4. Sudan**

Effective from 30 July<sup>4</sup>, Bassole's duty station is assigned to Khartoum. This decision was made after a structural review of the Mediation, taking into account the views of Bassole who held that Khartoum is the most convenient in allowing him to engage with key stakeholders in the Government of Sudan and the diplomatic community and to travel to the sub-region and Doha in a time relevant fashion. Notwithstanding this change, there will continue to be a significant JMST presence in El-Fasher embedded in UNAMID, and the JMST should continue to maintain semi-permanent representation in Doha as required.

Security Council resolution 1881 adopted yesterday, which extends UNAMID's mandate until 31 July 2010, and requests the SG to submit a strategic work-plan containing benchmarks to track progress made towards implementation of the Mission's mandate. DPKO has begun a study on the benchmarks that will be included in the Mission work-plan.

#### **5. Guinea-Bissau**

USG Pascoe sent a note updating on the presidential election.  
(Attachment #1)

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<sup>4</sup> (1633 and 1634 of 30 July 2009)

6. NATO

Outgoing Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer has sent the SG a letter<sup>5</sup> thanking him for his commitment and engagement to UN-NATO co-operation. He praised the signing last year of the Joint UN-NATO Declaration, which represents "a landmark" in the endeavors to meet existing security challenges.

*pls send  
an acknowledgment  
and commend  
his contribution  
as NATO SG.*

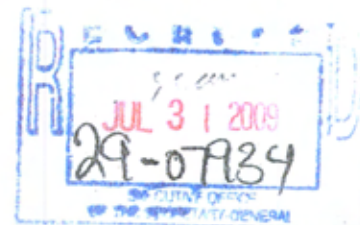


Political Unit  
31 July 2009

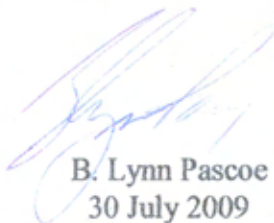
cc: DSG, VN, KWS

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<sup>5</sup> (29-07915)

ACTION  
COPYNote to Mr. Nambiar**GUINEA-BISSAU: UPDATE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION** ✓

1. On 29 July the National Electoral Commission announced the provisional results for the 26 July presidential run-off election. Mr. Malam Bacai of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea (PAIGC), obtained 224,259 votes (63.3 percent), and Kumba Yalá of the Social Renewal Party (PRS), garnered 129,973 votes (36.69 percent). In a press conference on 29 July, Mr. Yalá accepted the election's results and called on the PAIGC supporters not to be "provocative" in their celebrations.
2. As was the case in the first round, these elections were conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner with a 61 percent voter turnout. The initial observer statements, including those of ECOWAS, EU, CPLP and the West African Economic Union, have been unanimous in their praise for the National Elections Commission (CNE) and its professional organization of transparent and credible elections. Several observation missions noted the improvements made in the electoral process following the first round, and the non-obstructive role of the security forces during the process.
3. The important role played by the UNOGBIS, UNDP and the UN electoral team in support to the organization of these elections was acknowledged by the President of the CNE and Heads of observation missions.
4. The security situation has remained calm in the wake of the elections. It is important to note that RSG Mutaboba had worked with the parties on a memorandum of understanding, pledging to uphold the results of the elections, prior to the voting. It is widely acknowledged that the signing of the memorandum of understanding by the two presidential candidates, witnessed by both the Secretary-General's Representative and the Special Envoy of the African Union before the elections, as well as calls by the civil society, observation missions and the wider international community for acceptance of the results, appear to have contributed to an atmosphere largely free of tension.
5. In the absence of any complaints, which are decided upon by the Supreme Court of Justice, the provisional results should become final on 3 August.



B. Lynn Pascoe  
30 July 2009