



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

SG letter to FM Ukraine

Drafter: DPKO

Proofread by: AM/SH/ser

Approved by:

Amended

Date: 7/10/11

7 October 2011

Excellency,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 26 September 2011 in which you refer to the participation of Ukraine in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and in particular to the request for Ukraine to provide a military aviation unit to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and the request for Ukraine to consider extending its authorization for the use of the Ukrainian military aviation unit in Côte d'Ivoire, originally deployed to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

I welcome the consideration of your Government to provide a military aviation unit to MONUSCO. In this connection, I am pleased to inform you that the Permanent Representative for Ukraine to the United Nations met on 28 September 2011 with the Under-Secretary-General of Field Support, Ms. Susana Malcorra, and agreed to explore options regarding practical arrangements related to rapidly taking forward the potential contribution of Ukraine.

With regard to the request for Ukraine to consider extending its authorization for the use of the Ukrainian Aviation Unit in Côte d'Ivoire, I am pleased to inform you that in a letter dated 27 September 2011, the President of the Security Council informed me that the Security Council grants its approval of the arrangements. I have attached the correspondence for ease of reference. These arrangements include the return of the three armed helicopters from the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to UNMIL by 30 September 2011, where they would remain focused on the border with Côte d'Ivoire, except during the elections period in Liberia. Beyond the Liberian presidential and legislative elections, although still based in Liberia, the armed helicopters would continue to be used in the border areas in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and also in western Côte d'Ivoire, in light of the continuing security challenges emanating from these areas which pose a grave threat to both countries.

His Excellency  
Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine  
Kyiv

We note that the authorization of the Government of Ukraine for the Ukrainian military aviation unit to operate in Côte d'Ivoire expired on 30 September 2011. UNMIL and UNOCI have been instructed that the Ukrainian military aviation unit should therefore not be used outside Liberia, unless relevant authorization is granted by the Government of Ukraine. In the meantime, I have noted that your Government is considering the request of the United Nations to authorize an extension of the use of the Ukrainian military aviation unit in Côte d'Ivoire up to 31 December 2011.

Additionally, the Security Council expressed its readiness to respond appropriately to any request from me for the possible temporary relocation of the helicopters to UNOCI during the anticipated Ivorian legislative elections.

Once more, I wish to thank Ukraine for its critical contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki-moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent, and "moon" written in smaller script between them. A vertical line extends downwards from the end of the signature.

BAN Ki-moon