

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

23 February 2011

Excellency,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your personal engagement to secure your Government's timely approval of the temporary transfer of three armed military helicopters (MI-24) from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to reinforce the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) within the framework of the inter-mission cooperation arrangements provided for in Security Council resolutions 1609 (2005), 1951 (2010), 1967 (2011) and 1968 (2011).

The transfer of the armed helicopters, as well as the confirmed temporary deployment of the Ukrainian aviation unit comprised of two military utility helicopters that were earlier transferred from UNMIL to UNOCI, is essential to enable the Mission to fulfil its mandate during the ongoing post-election crisis. We therefore hope that our request for an extension of the two military utility helicopters until the end of the current mandate of UNOCI on 30 June 2011 will be considered positively by your Government.

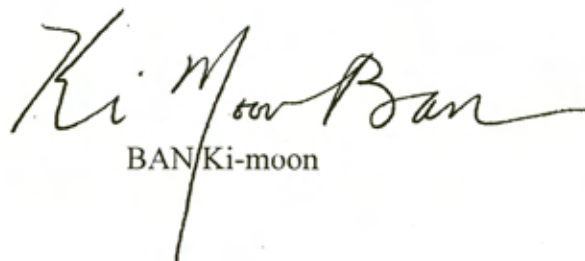
I took note of your concerns with regard to the rate of reimbursement for military helicopters deployed in peacekeeping operations and I fully support the need for a review of the reimbursement system for countries that contribute military aviation assets. I will continue to urge the United Nations legislative bodies to expedite consideration of this important matter.

His Excellency
Mr. Viktor Yanukovich
President of Ukraine
Kyiv

SG to Pres of Ukraine
Drafter: DPKO
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Approved by: _____
Date: 23 February 2011

The Secretariat and UNOCI are also working to put in place the arrangements requested by your Government to support the deployment of the armed helicopters and maintain the two utility helicopters in the Mission. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Government of Ukraine for its consistent and strong support for the efforts of the United Nations in the area of international peace and security.

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



BAN/Ki-moon