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Routine

Note to the Secretary-General

Visit to Spain 20-21 April 2015

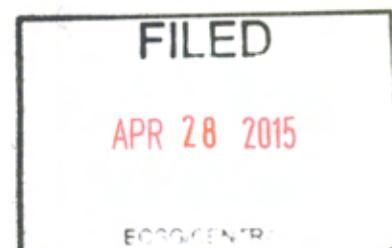


1. On 20-21 April, I visited Madrid where I met with Spanish Government officials including Pedro Morenes, the Minister of Defense, and Ignacio Ibanez, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In both meetings, I expressed the appreciation of the United Nations for the contribution of Spain to UN peacekeeping operations, highlighting the fact that Spain is currently the 40<sup>th</sup> largest troop contributing country with nearly 600 personnel serving with UNIFIL, MINUSTAH and UNOCI. I thanked both officials for Spain's hosting of the UN Support Base in Valencia, where we are holding our annual Directors of Mission Support/Chiefs of Mission Support Conference (22-24 April). I also expressed condolences on the death of a Spanish peacekeeper (with UNIFIL) on 28 January, reiterating the sentiments that you had conveyed to the Government earlier this year.

2. The Minister of Defense emphasized Spain's strong support for UN peacekeeping operations, affirming that he valued the "solidarity" with the international community that Spain's involvement with UN peacekeeping operations exemplified. Despite the economic crisis of recent years, Spain continued to actively support UN peacekeeping. The Minister of Defense expressed the view that UN peacekeeping operations should have clear, time-bound objectives, which would motivate host governments to take greater ownership and problem-solving responsibility.

3. I expressed the hope that Spain might consider providing enablers such as air assets and engineering capability. A report on the use of technology in UN peacekeeping made clear that there were significant needs and opportunities in this area as well. I congratulated the Minister on Spain's recent election to the Security Council and described its forthcoming SC presidency in September - during the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation - as an opportunity to further strengthen international support for UN peacekeeping. This opportunity would be enhanced by the ongoing work of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.

4. During my meeting with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I outlined my priorities for the Department of Field Support, particularly with regard to the overarching goals of enhancing the rapidity, effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping support within applicable rules and regulations. We discussed the UN Support Base in Valencia and the needs necessitated by the increase in the number of personnel working there. The State Secretary asserted that participation in UN peacekeeping operations had improved the image of the police and military in the eyes of the Spanish public and that the Government would do its best to meet the needs of UNSB-V.



PKG/04/005

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Finally, Secretary Ibanez requested that I share with him my observations of the situation in Mali following my forthcoming visit there (25-28 April).



Atul Khare  
22 April 2015

cc: Mr. Eliasson  
Ms. Malcorra  
Mr. Ladsous



**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Note to SG re: USG Khare's visit to Madrid to meet with government officials

**From:** Jane Brannigan/NY/UNO  
**To:** SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,  
**Date:** 23/04/2015 03:21 PM  
**Subject:** Note to SG re: USG Khare's visit to Madrid to meet with government officials

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Dear Colleagues,

Please see below a note to the Secretary-General from USG.Khare on the above mentioned subject.

Grateful if you could also kindly distribute to DSG Eliasson and the Chef de Cabinet.

Many thanks and best regards,



Note to SG on USG Khare's visit to Spain.pdf

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