



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

India
DPKO

17 April 2009

Excellency,

I am writing in reference to the Indian contribution to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the concerns recently expressed by your Government. In a communication dated 20 February 2009, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations informed the United Nations Secretariat of your Government's decision to withdraw the Indian contingent currently deployed with MONUC.

This is an issue of enormous concern, given the indispensable role that the Indian contingent has been playing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the challenges the United Nations would face in securing the critical military capabilities that India has brought to MONUC, in particular its air assets. These military capabilities constitute the backbone of MONUC. Losing them at this critical juncture would seriously jeopardize the recent gains made in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, and would impact negatively on the humanitarian situation in eastern DRC. Losing the aviation capabilities of India would also seriously hamper the capacity of MONUC to implement its mandate to protect civilians.

Subsequent to receiving the communication of 20 February 2009, the Government of India indicated, through senior contacts with the United Nations, a number of steps that the Government of the DRC should take to resolve the situation. This was conveyed to the DRC authorities.

His Excellency
Mr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of the Republic of India
New Delhi

29-04107

In this regard, during my visit to the DRC from 28 February to 1 March 2009, the Government of the DRC publicly expressed its full confidence in the Indian contingent. I understand that President Kabila has also written a letter to you on the matter, in which he recalls the substantial support Indian soldiers have provided to the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) during combat operations in 2008 against rebel Congolese armed groups. He also recalled that the Indian contingent played a crucial role in supporting his Government in its efforts to protect civilians. President Kabila further indicated that he had placed his hopes in the Indian contingent serving in MONUC to help the DRC consolidate peace and security in North and South Kivu.

I would like to inform you that I have just received a letter dated today, 17 April 2009, from the Foreign Minister of the DRC, H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, in which he reiterates the gratitude of his Government for the role of India in MONUC and expresses full confidence in the Indian contingent. He further states that he has withdrawn the letter he had addressed to me on 22 November 2008. The DRC Foreign Minister also indicated that his Government would be pleased to welcome additional troops from India.

The Government of the DRC would now have met the requirements presented to the Secretariat by the Government of India. In view of this, I should hope that your Government will consider this issue satisfactorily resolved. I would therefore respectfully request that the decision of your Government be reviewed, so that the continuing presence of the Indian contingent can be ensured.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite India to consider contributing to the additional capacities for MONUC, which the Security Council approved by resolution 1843 (2008). The outstanding requirements include 18 utility helicopters and a C-130 aircraft, or an aircraft of similar capacity. Should your Government consider this favourably, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations will be in touch with the relevant Indian authorities shortly.

In closing I would like to convey my gratitude and that of the United Nations as a whole for the courage and dedication that the Indian contingent has demonstrated in carrying out its tasks in the DRC, under extremely challenging conditions. The contribution of India has been critical for the security of the DRC, not only under the current Mission, but also under the United Nations Operation in the Congo from 1960 to 1964.

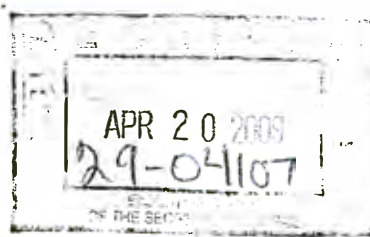
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN Ki-moon

ACTION
COPY

NH
VN



Priority
Confidential

Note to Mr. Nambiar

Draft Letter to Prime Minister Singh on India's contribution to MONUC ✓

1. Please refer to your e-mail of 16 April, which conveyed the substance of your discussions with the Indian authorities in New Delhi and a suggested approach to respond to the concerns of the Indian Government. I would also wish to refer to Mr. Kim's note of 16 April, transmitting the Secretary-General's wish that members of the Security Council engage with the relevant actors. In response to requests from EOSG and DPKO, the United Kingdom and the United States have made demarches in Kinshasa and New Delhi. As a result of these and MONUC's efforts, we have now received a letter from the Foreign Minister of the DRC dated today, which addresses the concerns expressed by India. Both your e-mail and the letter are attached for ease of reference.
2. Given the diplomatic steps already taken and the fact that the DRC has now met the Indian demands by writing to the Secretary-General, we would request, in line with your suggestion, that the Secretary-General now write to the Indian Prime Minister. Please find attached for the approval and signature of the Secretary-General, a draft letter to the Prime Minister of India.


Alain Le Roy
17 April 2009

cc: Mr. Kim
Mr. Haysom

APR 20 2009



Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Le Ministre

Kinshasa, le 17 AVR 2009

N° 130/ 0482 /2009

Transmis copie pour information à :

- Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République
(Avec l'expression de mes hommages les plus déferrés)
- Son Excellence Monsieur le Premier Ministre
(Avec l'expression de mes haute considération)

(Tous) à Kinshasa-Gombe

✓ **A Monsieur le Secrétaire Général
des Nations Unies
à New York**

Excellence Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

Son Excellence Monsieur le Président Joseph KABILA KABANGE a tout récemment adressé une correspondance à Son Excellence Monsieur le Premier Ministre de l'Inde, Monsieur MANMOHAN SINGH, exprimant la gratitude de la République Démocratique du Congo à l'Inde pour le rôle de son contingent indien au sein de la MONUC et réitérant sa totale confiance aux troupes indiennes. Au regard de ce message du Président de la République, je voudrais porter à votre bienveillante attention que le courrier que je vous avais fait parvenir le 22 novembre 2008 est, par conséquent, retiré.

En outre, le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo accueillerait avec plaisir le déploiement à la MONUC, de troupes supplémentaires de l'Inde. Je vous saurais gré de faire part de cette nouvelle au Gouvernement de l'Inde.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

Alexis THAMBWE MWAMBA



Vijay
Nambiar/NY/UNO@UNHQ
16/04/2009 05:39 PM

To David Haeri/United Nations@UNHQ-DPKO@UN-MAILHUB
cc Josiane Ambiehl/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Nancee Bright/United Nations@UNHQ-DPKO, Edmond Mulet/United Nations@UNHQ-DPKO
bcc
Subject Re: MONUC Indian contingent

David

I have been discussing this with concerned officials outside the Foreign Office here. I would suggest that after the DRC FM's letter is received, a letter from SG to the PM be sent in which we formally indicate that we have met the basic requirements of the Indian side and we now wish that the continued presence of the Indian contingent in MONUC can now be ensured.

I understand that the PM's Office and even the Defence Ministry are now willing but that the main continuing resistance is from the Foreign Ministry. The best way to counter this is through a formal letter to the PM from SG.

(I have discussed this with the top adviser of the PM and he agrees with this procedure)

Once this letter is ready, we shall fax it to the PMO. The original will be sent through the Mission here as per procedure. I shall also alert the PMO for their suitable further action.

We shall see how this works out.

Regards

Vijay
David Haeri

----- Original Message -----

From: David Haeri
Sent: 04/16/2009 11:18 AM EDT
To: Vijay Nambiar
Cc: Josiane Ambiehl; Nancee Bright/United Nations@UNHQ-DPKO; Edmond Mulet/United Nations@UNHQ-DPKO
Subject: MONUC Indian contingent

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

SRSG Doss is pursuing the letter from the FM DRC to the SG withdrawing the earlier letter regarding MONUC troop contributions. The text that is with the FM is below and apparently he will be willing to sign. It seems to meet the Indian sides' request as you conveyed, but we would be grateful for your assessment also.

with many thanks
David

Excellency,

His Excellency President Joseph Kabila Kagame has recently addressed a letter to the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Manmohan Singh underscoring the gratitude of the Democratic Republic of Congo for India's role in MONUC and expressing full confidence in the Indian contingent. With

this in mind, I would like to inform you that the letter I had addressed to you on 22 November 2008 is hereby withdrawn.

Additionally, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo would welcome **the** deployment to MONUC of additional troops from India. I would appreciate your informing the Government of India accordingly.

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

Alexis Thambwe-Mwamba

David Haeri
Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General
Department of Peacekeeping Operations
United Nations

Tel +1 (212) 963-5421 - Office
+1 (347) 604 0943 - Cell