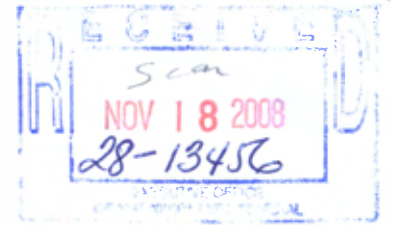


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Nepal



Note to the Secretary-General

NEPAL ✓

1. The Security Council discussed your report on Nepal on 7 November, during which members unanimously welcomed the progress in the peace process. At the same time, they recognized the challenges that lie ahead, particularly the integration of the two armies, and urged that the special committee of the Nepalese parties formed to “supervise, integrate and rehabilitate” Maoist combatants become operational as soon as possible.

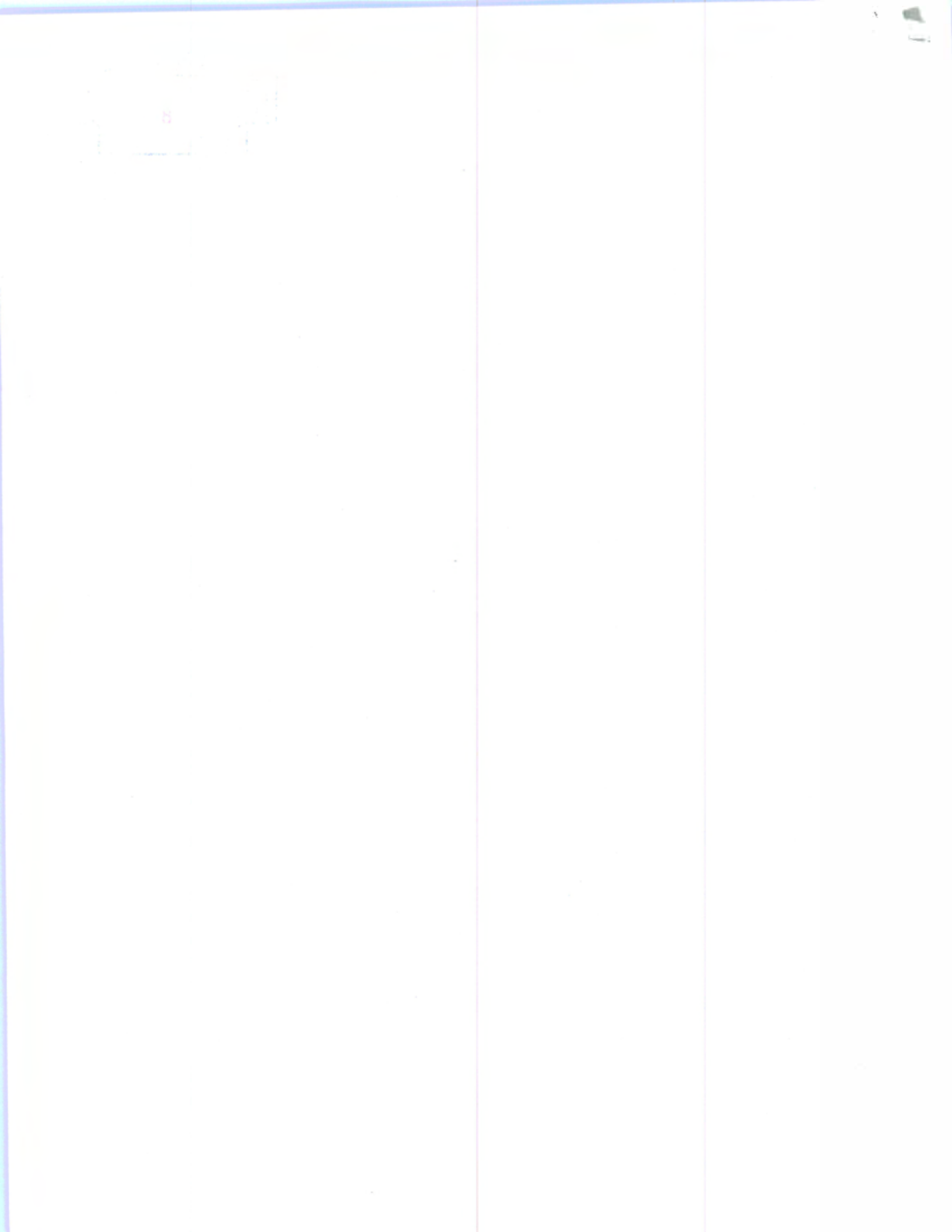
2. The Permanent Representative of Nepal reported to the Council that if the integration process extends beyond the end of the current UNMIN mandate on 23 January 2009 (which is almost certain to be the case) his Government, in consultation with the special committee and the political parties, might request a six-month mandate extension. Regrettably, this does not provide any clearer indication of the Government’s intention than what Prime Minister Prachanda gave you in Kathmandu. As you may recall, the special committee was established with some haste in time for your visit, and is not yet become operational as the Nepali Congress (NC) still refuses to join the body.

3. The United Kingdom, supported by many others, expressed a willingness to consider extension of UNMIN’s mandate should the Government make the request, but added that since UNMIN is a mission with a focused mandate and of limited duration, its blanket roll-over beyond January was not acceptable. Any further extension would be subject to a further downsizing of the Mission and a revision of its mandate.

4. It has been made clear by the Prime Minister and others that UNMIN’s assistance will be needed in the process of integrating and rehabilitating the Maoist Combatants. The exact nature of this support is yet to be determined by the special committee and the Government. DPA intends to deploy a small technical mission to Nepal in early December to assess and prepare for the likely forms of assistance UNMIN will provide to the process. The findings of the mission will be an important part of our planning to be reflected in your next report to the Council due in early January. Every effort will be made to prepare the revised budget for 2009 by the end of December, based on the finding of the above mission and further consultations among DPA, DFS and UNMIN.

5. The absence of a formal request from Nepal could once again delay a decision by the Council to a date unhelpfully close to the end of the current mandate. This in turn will make our task of planning for the post-January configuration of UNMIN difficult. DPA is required to make all the administrative and budgetary preparations for a possible extension of UNMIN by the end of 2008 to ensure as smooth a transition as possible come 23 January. We have therefore drawn up a preliminary and skeletal concept for a down-sized mission along the following lines.

6. Should there be an extension of mandate beyond January, the SRSG and DPA estimate that UNMIN could be further downsized to roughly 230 staff (down from its

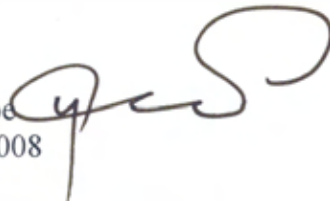


current authorized 324 and its original strength of about 1,000). Its main components would be a small political office, an arms monitoring office, a technical advisory team focusing on integration and rehabilitation issues, and mission support. The Mission would be headed by a D-2, rather than the current SRSG at the USG level. SRSG Ian Martin has confirmed his intention not to stay in Nepal after the current mandate, irrespective of the size of the post-January mission. DSRSG Karin Landgren (D-2) would be well placed to head such a down-sized mission. These are preliminary thoughts subject to revision once the formal request for mandate extension is received. Your agreement to this general approach would be helpful for the preparations we need to make.

7. At the moment, UNMIN's budget envisages only one month of substantive activities in January 2009, followed by four months of liquidation. There will not be adequate funds to sustain the Mission's substantive operation beyond 23 January should the mandate be extended beyond that date. We recommend that as soon as the Council extends the mandate the Controller seek from ACABQ a commitment authority for the necessary funding of the UNMIN's activities until March 2009 when the relevant intergovernmental bodies are expected to approve the revised 2009 budget.

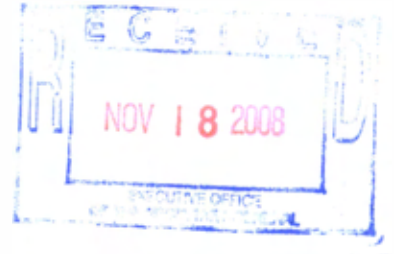
8. I should be grateful for your approval of the action outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7.

for B Lynn Pascoe
18 November 2008



Note to Mr. Nambiar

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's approval, a Note on the discussion by the Security Council of the report on Nepal and of the possible extension of UNMIN's mandate beyond January 2009.

for B. Lynn Pascoe
18 November 2008

