

Update Note for the Secretary-General
11 October 2010

1. Israel – Palestine – Lebanon

Williams reports¹ on his meetings with Israeli officials last week, which were dominated by the worsening political situation in Lebanon in relation to the STL and the forthcoming visit of President Ahmadinejad.

Israeli officials see Ahmadinejad's visit against the background of the Syrian-Saudi "umbrella" for Lebanon, which they think the Iranian leadership is seeking to challenge. Israel's fundamental interest and goal for the visit is the maintenance of stability across the Blue Line.

Williams was given a strong message that Israel expects the Lebanese state and its institutions to manage the visit responsibly. This includes senior officials such as President Sleiman, Speaker Berri and PM Hariri accompanying President Ahmadinejad and the Lebanese Armed Forces taking the lead in providing protection and ensuring stability.

The IDF indicated the visit would be "very helpful in making clear the Iranian regime's position to everyone". In the words of one officer, "let the dog bark". One advisor spoke of the "exquisite dilemma" the visit posed for Israel: to take possible action or to "enjoy" the propaganda benefits of the "self-explanatory" behaviour of the Iranian President.

Williams' interlocutors also protested (mildly) the continued emphasis the UN places on Israel's "visible" violations of 1701 – the occupation of northern Ghajar and over-flights -- while saying (too) little about Hizbullah's re-armament and accumulated arsenal.

2. Democratic Republic of the Congo

Several news reports state that French authorities have arrested in Paris an alleged leader of the FLDR, which is accused of mass rapes in the DRC by the ICC Prosecutor. Callixte Mbarushimana, 47, a senior leader of the Rwandan Hutu FDLR, will face five charges of crimes against humanity and six war crimes charges for murders, rapes, torture and destruction of property, said the ICC.

¹ (CLX-095 of 8/10/10)
10-09698

→ NH

- KY ^{limited}
ⁱⁿ
^{apportion}
for info
only - No
action.

3. Côte d'Ivoire

Choi reports² on his meeting with PM Soro to discuss the post-first round situation. Choi comments that the PM is convinced of the possibility of post-electoral violence if the loser does not accept the outcome of the ballot and mobilizes military force and youth organizations, especially if the second round is delayed. In this regard, the PM would like to maintain constant and close contacts with the Facilitator and the Certifier, especially during the first several days of November.

With about three weeks left before the first round³, speculations on possible delays have begun. UNOCI's leadership and donors held a series of urgent meetings on mitigating measures which may help minimize the possibility of delays in the first round of the presidential election on 31 October.

4. Nigeria

Amos has sent the SG a note⁴ concerning her upcoming mission to Nigeria and Niger. (*Attachment # 1*)

5. Afghanistan

~~PM~~ ^{FM} Rassoul has written⁵ to the SG, expressing his appreciation for the "very important" and "key" role played by the ISAF as well as for the UN's wider contributions. He states that Afghanistan welcomes the proposal for the ISAF to continue to operate until the Afghan security forces are fully able to provide security. He hopes that the SC will continue to reflect in its resolutions the "paramount importance of fulfilling the ISAF mandate."

With regard to the parliamentary elections, De Mistura reports that the IEC has announced that it would not be able to announce preliminary results on 9 October as scheduled. The IEC will, instead, announce the results on the first 17 provincial elections on 9 October, and the remaining 17 provinces on 17 October. De Mistura considers this plan ambitious but achievable.

The IEC continues to take a proactive step in examining suspect results, and continues its close cooperation with the ECC. The number of polling centers which have had some or all results nullified stands at 227, and the IEC has ordered

² (CCN-289 of 9/10/10)

³ (CCN-290 of 9/10/10)

⁴ (10-09679)

⁵ (10-09690 and 10-09675))

audits of 339 other polling centers. The total number of complaints before all the ECCs (provincial and national) now stands at 3,742, of which about 60% are classified as allegations which, if proven, may affect the election result.

De Mistura notes⁶ that though it is still premature to analyze the results, it is clear that irregularities took place throughout the country. However, initial signs of the competence of the electoral complaints institutions are encouraging. What will not be reflected in the fraud mitigation measures is the influence of local powerbrokers and warlords on the electoral process. Many voters were instructed or ordered to vote for a particular person. Early indications are that the new parliament will be dominated by warlords, and that the influence over parliament will shift from the opposition to supporters of Karzai.

Also expected is a likely gain in parliamentary seats by the Hazara population. Low voter turnout in Pashtun areas helped the Hazara to win parliamentary seats even where they do not constitute a majority of the population.

6. Security Council Elections

The media reports today that Portuguese officials have given public notice of Portugal's intention to back co-contenders Canada in the elections for membership of the Security Council, in the hope of forcing out Germany from the three way contest. The Officials stated that they objected in particular to Germany's late decision to compete for an SC seat, which occurred well after Portugal and Canada had secured support for an uncontested two candidate slates.



Political Unit

11 October 2010

cc: DSG, VN, KWS

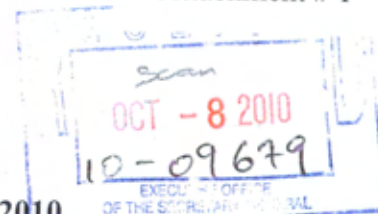
⁶ (CFN-167 of 9/10/10)
10-09698

ACTION COPY

Attachment # 1

Note to the Secretary-General

✓ MISSION TO NIGERIA and NIGER, 13-16 October 2010



1. I plan to visit Nigeria and Niger from 13 to 16 October 2010. West Africa remains one of the world's most fragile regions confronted with food insecurity, malnutrition, climate change, health epidemics, youth unemployment, transnational drug-related and other criminal activities, high population growth and weak political governance. These challenges, if not effectively addressed, could develop into even more serious humanitarian situations. During this mission, I intend to discuss the regional vulnerabilities and seek opportunities to enhance partnerships with the Governments of Niger and Nigeria, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as humanitarian and development actors.

2. Nigeria is confronted with food insecurity, nutrition, health epidemics and internal displacement challenges, particularly in the north. This year, the Government, for the first time, requested UN support to address its internal displacement issues. This signals a new direction by the authorities to work with the international community to tackle the country's humanitarian challenges. This visit therefore represents a unique opportunity to engage on regional issues. Nigeria also hosts the headquarters of ECOWAS, which has committed to strengthen its capacity to become the primary responder to humanitarian needs for its Member States.

3. In Niger, I will review the ongoing humanitarian response to the severe food and nutrition crisis, where seven million people, of the estimated 10 million, at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition across the Sahel, live. Following John Holmes's visit to Niger in April, humanitarian agencies, with support from donors, undertook a massive aid operation to respond to the immediate needs and help stabilize the food and nutrition situation.

4. I hope my visit will help sustain more engagement by leaders in the region and their partners, including the UN system, to help find more effective and comprehensive solutions to the recurrent crises in West Africa.

Valerie Amos
6 October 2010

cc: Ms. Clark
Mr. Diouf
Mr. Djinnit
Mr. Lake
Mr. Pascoe
Ms. Sheeran
Mr. Starr
Mr. Nabarro