



Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2000

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

The attached letter, dated 21 December 2000, from the Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations, was addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex). In accordance with the request contained in the letter, I am circulating it as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 21 December 2000 from the Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 20 December 2000 and the attached report of the Panel of Experts, appointed pursuant to paragraph 19 of Security Council resolution 1306 (2000), in relation to Sierra Leone (S/2000/1195). The Swiss Government welcomes the report as a useful contribution to the effective implementation of the United Nations sanctions.

The report specifically mentions the issue of Swiss customs warehouses, the so-called Freilager (paras. 16, 117, 118 and 164). While the issues raised concerning customs warehouses are of concern in several countries, Switzerland is singled out and the efforts undertaken to tackle potential problems and to strengthen controls on the transit of diamonds through customs warehouses are not duly reflected in the report.

I therefore wish to forward to you the enclosed statement, which sets out the measures Switzerland has taken regarding the issue of conflict diamonds (see enclosure). This statement was communicated to the Panel both orally and in writing before the publication of the report.

This being said, Switzerland will carefully study the recommendations made in the report to further strengthen its set of measures to effectively fight trade in conflict diamonds.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Jenö C. A. **Stachelin**
Ambassador

Enclosure

Fighting conflict diamonds — Switzerland to introduce further measures