

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 16 February 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach the assessment by the presidency of the United States of America of the work of the Security Council during November 2004 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared on our own authority, but we have consulted other members of the Council before submitting it.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anne W. **Patterson**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 16 February 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (November 2004)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Ambassador John C. Danforth, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work during the month of November 2004. During the month, the Security Council held 25 public meetings and 14 consultations of the whole. The Council also adopted six resolutions: on the situation in Timor-Leste, the situation in Haiti, the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the scheduling of the election of a judge of the International Court of Justice, and the situation in the Sudan. In addition, the Security Council adopted four presidential statements: on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the situation in Guinea-Bissau, the situation in Somalia, and the institutional relationship with the African Union.

The commitment of the Security Council to promoting international peace and security was truly highlighted by its meeting in Nairobi, on 18 and 19 November. The purpose of the Council's Nairobi meeting, only its fourth outside New York since 1952, was to re-energize peace negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in order to end Africa's most protracted conflict. The Nairobi meeting put the full weight of the Security Council behind the call to the parties to redouble their efforts towards a peaceful solution. The meeting concluded with the Sudanese parties signing before the Council a memorandum of understanding to reach a comprehensive peace agreement by the end of the year.

Africa

African Union

At the meeting of the Security Council in Nairobi on 19 November, the President made a statement (S/PRST/2004/44) on behalf of the Council members, reaffirming the institutional relationship between the United Nations and the African Union. The Council welcomed the establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council and expressed its support for early ratification of the Peace and Security Protocol by all African States and the establishment of an African Standby Force and an early warning system in Africa. The statement reflected the rising importance of strengthening cooperation with the African Union in order to help build the capacity of the United Nations to deal with collective security challenges, in particular those on the African continent.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Security Council met on 6 November to consider the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/42), the Council condemned any

effort by the Government or the rebels to send forces through the zone of confidence. It also demanded the immediate cessation of all military operations by all Ivorian parties and full compliance with the ceasefire agreement of 3 May 2003.

The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1572 (2004) on 15 November imposing an immediate 13-month arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire. According to the resolution, the Ivorian parties had until 15 December 2004 to implement their commitments under the existing peace process — under the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements — or face further restrictions on travel and finance. The text adopted by the Council established a Committee to oversee implementation of the sanctions and authorized the Committee to request whatever further information it might consider necessary.

Guinea-Bissau

In response to developments in Guinea-Bissau that had led to the killing, on 6 October, of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff and the Chief of Human Resources, the Security Council adopted, on 2 November, a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/41), in which it condemned in the strongest terms such use of force to settle differences or address grievances.

Mission to Central Africa

Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière, Permanent Representative of France, led a Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda from 21-25 November. On 30 November, Ambassador de la Sablière briefed the Council on the mission's findings, including its assessments of the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi and the prospects of peace and stability in the region. He said the mission was encouraged by signs of progress in the region, but that remaining obstacles should not be underestimated.

Sudan

In his monthly briefing to the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Jan Pronk, on 4 November, addressed the situation in that country. He advocated a three-pronged approach to reverse the situation, starting with the deployment of a third-party force, the African Union, to effectively deter violations, followed by an acceleration of all negotiations, and the holding accountable of all political leaders for ongoing violations of agreements and further human misery.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative, the President issued a press statement condemning ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; expressing concern about the Government of the Sudan's forced relocations of internally displaced persons in Otash, Old Sharief and New Sharief; and reiterating support for the leadership role of the African Union in the Darfur crisis.

On 18 November, in Nairobi, the Security Council welcomed the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, who highlighted the leading role Kenya had played in seeking long-lasting solutions to the problems bedeviling the Sudan and Somalia, adding that there was light at the end of the tunnel. Next, the Secretary-General thanked the

Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) for its leadership of the Naivasha peace process and remarked that the United Nations was preparing a major, multidimensional approach to help build a lasting peace. The First Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Othman Taha, expressed hope that the minor details of the peace agreement that remained unresolved would soon be worked out. John Garang, head of SPLM/A, also reiterated his commitment to achieving peace in the Sudan. The Council members then resumed dialogue with the parties in a private meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, and the Special Envoy for IGAD, Lazarus Sumbeiywo, were invited to participate in those discussions.

At the conclusion of its Nairobi meetings, on 19 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1574 (2004), by which it extended until 10 March 2005 the mandate of the advance mission already operating in the Sudan. The Council members were encouraged by the commitment of the Government of the Sudan and SPLM/A who, earlier in the day, had signed a memorandum of understanding promising to reach a comprehensive peace agreement before the end of the year. In resolution 1574 (2004) the Council declared its strong support for those efforts, reiterated its readiness to establish a United Nations peace mission to help implement an agreement, and declared its commitment to assist the people of the Sudan in their efforts to establish a peaceful, united and prosperous nation.

Somalia

During their meeting in Nairobi, the Council members also adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2004/43), welcoming the progress made in the Somali national reconciliation process, in particular the establishment of the Transitional Federal Parliament, the election of the Speaker of the Parliament and the President, and the appointment of the Prime Minister.

Central Africa

On 3 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, reported to the Council on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

Americas

Haiti

At separate meetings on 24 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Juan Gabriel Valdés, briefed the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on the situation in Haiti, expressing concern for the unstable security situation and the lagging political transition. The Special Representative focused his report on the means to drastically improve the security situation across Haiti by implementing successful disarmament programmes; he also urged the Council to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH.

On 29 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1576 (2004), extending the mandate of MINUSTAH until 1 June 2005, with the intention to renew it for further periods.

Asia

Afghanistan

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council on 9 November, praising the Afghan people for their “remarkable political maturity” following successful and free elections that saw Hamid Karzai elected as the first democratically-chosen President of that nation. The Under-Secretary-General outlined certain challenges, including extremism and the narcotics trade, that would have to be addressed by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in preparation for parliamentary and local elections in 2005. The Council issued a press statement welcoming the certification of Mr. Karzai as President and recognizing the historic importance of the event.

Timor-Leste

On 15 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sukehiro Hasegawa, addressed the Security Council at an open meeting on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET), including the progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMISSET (S/2004/888), covering the period from 14 August to 9 November 2004. The Special Representative provided details on the creation of eight working groups to identify the measures required for a smooth transition from peacekeeping to more traditional nation-building assistance.

On 16 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1573 (2004), by which it extended the mandate of UNMISSET for a final six months, until 20 May 2005. By that resolution, the Council sought to consolidate the gains achieved thus far and to provide for a viable transition strategy from peacekeeping to development assistance.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Terje Roed-Larsen, reported to the Council on 15 November. He called on all parties to intensify efforts to bring about the realization of peace in the region. The solution, he remarked, would have to be a two-State solution in accordance with the road map, in line with the principles behind the Oslo accords, and based on the relevant Security Council resolutions. He said that the withdrawal from Gaza of the Israel Defense Forces was an opportunity to revive peace, provided that Israel coordinated the withdrawal with the Quartet and the Palestinian Authority.

Iraq

On 30 November, the Security Council approved a letter from the Council President requesting the Secretary-General to establish, no later than 3 December, a trust fund to financially support a United Nations protection force in Iraq. The protection force providing security for the United Nations presence in Iraq is a distinct entity under unified command, according to Council resolution 1546 (2004).

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 11 November, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown briefed the Security Council on progress since March 2004 in that country. He called for cooperation by the Republika Srpska authorities in capturing leaders indicted by the International Tribunal as a necessary step in realizing Bosnia and Herzegovina's hopes of becoming a modern European State. The Secretary-General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, also addressed the Council. Speaking in anticipation of the transfer of peacekeeping operations from NATO to European Union forces, he highlighted the historic alliance forged in Bosnia between NATO and the United Nations that had yielded significant improvements in security and the establishment of the rule of law. His speech marked the first time that a NATO Secretary-General had ever addressed the Council.

Just ahead of the European Union's assumption on 2 December of the main multinational stabilization role in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1575 (2004) on 22 November. The mandate set out in the resolution authorizes the EU-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take over from the NATO multinational Stabilization Force (SFOR), which concludes its operations at the end of the year.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)

On 29 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Søren Jessen-Petersen, briefed the Security Council on the situation in that province. While the standards implementation plan remains the central plank of the international community's policy in Kosovo, with a first opportunity in mid-2005 for a comprehensive review of the progress in meeting the standards, the Special Representative remarked that the fulfilment of key indicators would need to be prioritized. Among them, he highlighted the rule of law, freedom of movement, functioning local institutions and security as areas most significant to the establishment of a multi-ethnic Kosovo. While reaffirming support for the "standards before status" policy, the Council members acknowledged that progress on standards had been made in some areas but was still lacking in others and further stressed the need for the process to be speeded up substantially. Afterwards, members echoed support for the Special Representative's recommendations on standards prioritization. Council members congratulated the people of Kosovo on the open and democratic election in October, but lamented the low turnout of Kosovo Serbs.

Other issues

International Tribunals

On 23 November the Presidents and Prosecutors of the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda briefed the Security Council on the progress made towards implementation of the completion strategy established by resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004). While expressing their firm resolve for meeting the Council-imposed deadlines, the tribunal officials drew attention to the persistent

obstacles threatening that goal, namely, underfunding by Member States, a resulting recruitment freeze, and a lack of cooperation by some States in apprehending most wanted fugitives.

International Court of Justice

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1571 (2004), setting 15 February 2005 as the date for the election to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Judge Gilbert Guillaume of the International Court of Justice.
