

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 27 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom in December 2005 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emyr **Jones Parry**

Annex to the letter dated 27 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (December 2005)

During the United Kingdom Presidency, the Security Council held 29 meetings, including an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and 14 sessions of informal consultations. Ten resolutions and nine presidential statements were adopted.

Africa

Burundi

On 21 December the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1650 (2005), by which it renewed the mandate of ONUB until 1 July 2006. The resolution provides for the possibility of redeployment of personnel between ONUB and MONUC, subject to authorization from the Security Council and the prior agreement of the Governments of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and relevant troop-contributing countries. The Secretary-General is due to report by 15 March 2006 on the results of a joint assessment by ONUB and the Burundian authorities on the future size and role of ONUB.

Central African Republic

The Council members took note, via an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, of the former's recommendation to extend the mandate of BONUCA from 1 January to 31 December 2006, and to raise the rank of his Representative in the Central African Republic to that of Special Representative, at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

Côte d'Ivoire

In informal consultations on 8 December, the Council members were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the appointment of the new Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. Ambassador Adamantios Th. Vassilakis of Greece, Chairman of the Côte d'Ivoire sanctions Committee, briefed the Council on the work of that Committee.

The Council adopted on 9 December a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/60), in which it welcomed the appointment of the Prime Minister and reaffirmed that he must have the powers and resources described in resolution 1633 (2005).

On 15 December the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1643 (2005), by which it renewed the provisions imposing sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire for a further year and imposed an embargo on diamond exports from that country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 19 December, at an open meeting and as part of the briefing by the chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council (see below), Ambassador Abdallah Baali of Algeria, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, briefed the Council on the work of that Committee.

On 21 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1649 (2005), concerning militias and foreign armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. By that resolution the Council extended the scope of targeted measures originally adopted in resolution 1596 (2005) to political and military leaders of armed groups who impede the disarmament process, with effect from 15 January 2006. It urged the Government of National Unity and Transition to do its utmost to ensure the security of civilians, and reaffirms the MONUC mandate to provide support for the efforts of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to disarm foreign combatants and to use all necessary means, within the limits of its capabilities, to protect civilians. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare, by 15 March 2006, in close coordination with the Government of National Unity and Transition and other relevant stakeholders, a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the disarmament, repatriation and resettlement of foreign combatants, incorporating military, political, economic and justice-related aspects.

Also on 21 December the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/66), in which it commended the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the successful holding of the referendum on the draft constitution and paid tribute to the role played by the Independent Electoral Commission and MONUC.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 7 December the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council on the Eritrean demand that United States, Canadian and European UNMEE staff leave the Mission within 10 days. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/59) condemning the Eritrean decision and demanding that it be reversed. At the request of the Council members, the President of the Council called in the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to make clear the Council's position.

On 13 December the Secretary-General updated the Council and on 14 December, in informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jane Holl Lute, briefed the Council on UNMEE. The Council agreed to the Secretariat's proposal to temporarily relocate some UNMEE staff to Ethiopia for security reasons and adopted a further presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/62) to that effect on 14 December.

In informal consultations on 21 December the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Council on options for the future of UNMEE. The Council members agreed that no decisions on those options

should be taken until receipt of the Secretary-General's report, called for in resolution 1640 (2005), and due early in January 2006.

Great Lakes region

On 6 December, the Council held a public meeting on the report of its mission to Central Africa from 4 to 11 November 2005 (S/2005/716). The Council members endorsed the mission's recommendations, underlined the importance of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reaffirmed the ongoing commitment of the international community to Burundi. Representatives of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda took part in the debate.

On 30 December, in an exchange of letters between the President of the Council and the Secretary-General, the Council members took note of the Secretary-General's intention to extend the mandate of his Special Representative for the Great Lakes region until 31 March 2006.

Guinea-Bissau

In informal consultations on 14 December, the Council members heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, João Bernardo Honwana, on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. He outlined the recent developments in the country and underlined the importance of continued international assistance. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press urging all parties to maintain their commitment to the rule of law and to commit themselves to working to consolidate the democratic process. The Council members agreed to revise the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and extend it for one year.

Liberia

On 16 December Council members heard a briefing in informal consultations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Alan Doss, following the recent election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as President of Liberia. In the same consultations, the Council members reviewed the sanctions against Liberia and heard a briefing from Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj of Denmark, Chairman of the Liberia Sanctions Committee.

On 20 December the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1647 (2005), by which it renewed the arms embargo and travel ban on Liberia for one year and the timber and diamond sanctions for six months and agreed to review the sanctions when the new Government of Liberia certified that the conditions for lifting them had been met.

Sierra Leone

On 20 December the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone, Daudi Mwakawago, briefed the Council at a public meeting held a few days before the end of the mandate of UNAMSIL. The Special Representative sketched the history of UNAMSIL from 1999 to its successful conclusion and described the innovations in the Mission which could be models for other United Nations peacekeeping operations: cooperation with other United Nations missions in

the region, integrated management of governance and development issues, and clear benchmarks set for drawdown.

The Council members congratulated the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his predecessors, United Nations staff and troop and police contributors. They hoped the new United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone would continue to support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone at consolidation of peace in that country; and that Sierra Leone might be an early candidate for the Peacebuilding Commission. A presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/63) was adopted.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General also briefed countries contributing troops to UNAMSIL at a private meeting of the Council on 20 December. He thanked them for their support.

Somalia

On 19 December, as part of the briefing by the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council (see below), Ambassador Lauro Baja of the Philippines, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, briefed the Council members on his visit to the region and on the Committee's work.

Sudan

At an open meeting on 13 December, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, briefed the Council and presented his second report under resolution 1593 (2005) on the investigation of the situation in Darfur. The briefing was immediately followed by a private meeting at which Council members made comments and asked questions. As agreed by the Council members, the delegation of the Sudan remained present in the room, but did not participate in the meeting.

In the exchange of views that followed between Council members and the Prosecutor, the Council members noted that the primary responsibility for ensuring an end to the atrocities, prevention of their recurrence and an end to impunity in Darfur lay with the Government of the Sudan, which had an obligation to cooperate fully with the Court. The start of that cooperation had been welcome, but it needed to continue and in particular would need to include interviews with Government witnesses. The Council would pay close attention to progress, including the signature of the cooperation agreement between the African Union and the International Criminal Court.

On 21 December the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1651 (2005), by which it renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan until 29 March 2006. On the same day the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/67) in which it welcomed the resumption of the Abuja talks on Darfur; called on all parties to reach a full peace agreement there without further delay; expressed concern at the persisting violence; reaffirmed its determination to make full use of existing measures; expressed gratitude to the African Union for its role in Darfur; and appealed to donors to continue supporting the African Mission in the Sudan.

Asia

Iraq

On 5 December, the President of the Security Council met the Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Demetrius Perricos, for an update on the Commission's recent work. In consultations on 7 December, the Council members heard a briefing from the Acting Chairman on the activities of UNMOVIC during the past quarter.

At an open meeting on 14 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, briefed the Council on United Nations activities in Iraq and on developments in the last quarter. Ambassador John Bolton of the United States of America provided the quarterly update on the activities of the Multinational Force. Ambassador Samir Sumaida'ie of Iraq participated in the meeting and briefed the Council on developments in Iraq in the previous three months and on the challenges ahead. The Council pursued its discussion in informal consultations following the open briefing.

On 16 December, the Council members agreed on a statement to the press welcoming the Iraqi elections that had been held the previous day.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

In informal consultations on 14 December, the members of the Council heard a briefing from Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator mandated to investigate the fate of the missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and stolen Kuwaiti property. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press welcoming the increased cooperation of the Government of Iraq in resolving outstanding issues, but noting with regret the slow progress on locating the Kuwaiti national archive and determining the fate of the missing. The members of the Council repeated their condemnation of human rights violations by the former Iraqi regime and expressed their condolences to the families of the missing.

The situation in the Middle East

Lebanon

On 12 December, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/61), in which it condemned the terrorist bombing that killed the Lebanese Member of Parliament, editor and journalist Gibran Tueni and three others. The Council reiterated its concern about the destabilizing impact of political assassinations and other terrorist acts in Lebanon; expressed readiness to consider positively any request for assistance from the Government of Lebanon in bringing to justice all those responsible for the assassination and others before; and reiterated its call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon.

International Independent Investigation Commission

On 13 December, Detlev Mehlis, the head of the International Independent Investigation Commission investigating the assassination of the former Lebanese

Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, presented his second report (S/2005/775, annex) at a public meeting of the Council. He recommended the extension of the Commission's mandate for a further six months, as requested in a letter dated 5 December 2005 from the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, to the Secretary-General (S/2005/762, annex). The Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic, Fayssal Mekdad, and the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon, Ibrahim Assaf, also addressed the Council.

The Council members continued their discussions in informal consultations, attended by Mr. Mehlis and the Secretary-General. The Council members reiterated their support for the work of the Commission; supported the extension of its mandate for a further six months; and agreed that the Lebanese requests for further international assistance, contained in a letter dated 13 December from the Prime Minister to the Secretary-General, merited consideration.

In informal consultations on 14 and 15 December, the Council discussed a draft resolution extending the mandate of the Commission for an initial period of six months and addressing the Lebanese requests for additional international assistance. The draft resolution also covered the level of cooperation offered to the Commission by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. On 15 December, the Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution as resolution 1644 (2005).

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

In informal consultations on 16 December the Council members heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on UNDOF. He described the area of operation as quiet but tense and emphasized the need to tackle the Middle East peace process in all its aspects, a point echoed by the Council members. On 21 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1648 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of UNDOF until 30 June 2006, and an accompanying presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/65).

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 20 December, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General called on the parties to return to calm and reminded them of their obligations under the road map. He updated the Council on preparations for the Palestinian legislative elections and on the economic situation, including the outcome of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. He reported that violations of the Blue Line continued and reiterated that one violation did not justify another. In consultations, the Council members discussed the need for implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access, the obligations of Israel and the Palestinian Authority and the preparations for the forthcoming Palestinian elections.

Europe

Cyprus

In informal consultations on 7 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on

UNFICYP. The Assistant Secretary-General introduced the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2005/743 and Corr.1), summarizing the key elements and noting the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNFICYP be extended in its current configuration for a further period of six months. The Council members broadly agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment that the situation on the island remained calm and stable, and they supported the work of UNFICYP. All Council members supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 June 2006. A draft resolution to this effect was adopted unanimously on 14 December as resolution 1642 (2005).

Other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The Council conducted a comprehensive review of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, as provided for in resolution 1535 (2004), in informal consultations on 21 December. The Council based its discussions on the report prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and submitted to the Council by the Chairman of the Committee in her letter of 15 December (S/2005/800). Having discussed the report, the Council endorsed its conclusions, and on 21 December adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/64) on the outcome of the review.

Africa: humanitarian affairs

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council at an open meeting on 19 December on humanitarian issues in Africa. He described the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and Chad, the humanitarian impact of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the southern Sudan, and the significantly worsened humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the link between humanitarian crises and peace and security, and called for Council action in response. The Council members shared his concerns and emphasized the need to alleviate humanitarian suffering, including through ensuring better protection of civilians and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 9 December, the Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jacques Forster, briefed the Council, and statements were made by Council members (the United Kingdom speaking also on behalf of the European Union), as well as by 20 other States. The main themes to emerge from the debate included the need to prevent armed conflicts and to address their root causes; the role of peacekeeping missions and regional organizations in providing protection; and the challenges of addressing sexual violence and ending impunity.

International Tribunals

At an open meeting on 15 December, the Council heard presentations by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Fausto

Pocar; the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Eric Møx; the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Carla del Ponte; and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Hassan Jallow. Comments were made and questions raised by the Council members, and comments were made by the delegations of Rwanda, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In their comments the Council members encouraged the two Tribunals to continue pursuing the completion strategies; noted that the transfer of Ante Gotovina to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was a significant step, and that there was a continuing need for full cooperation by the States in the region to ensure the transfer of the remaining indictees, including Karadzic and Mladic, to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and Kabuga to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Peacebuilding Commission

On 20 December the Council adopted resolution 1645 (2005), by which, acting concurrently with the General Assembly, it operationalized the decision of the September 2005 World Summit to establish a Peacebuilding Commission. Also on 20 December the Council adopted resolution 1646(2005), by which it decided that the permanent members of the Council listed in Article 23 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations would be members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, and that, in addition, two non-permanent members of the Council would be selected annually by the Council to participate in the Organizational Committee.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

On 9 December, the President of the Security Council made a statement to the press on behalf of the Council condemning remarks made by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, concerning Israel and the denial of the Holocaust. The statement reaffirmed that under the Charter all Members had undertaken to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. In its statement, the Council also supported the Secretary-General's statement on the issue.

Subsidiary bodies

On 19 December the Council held an open meeting for a briefing by the five outgoing Permanent Representatives in their capacities as Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council.

Ambassador Lauro Baja of the Philippines reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, and presented the report of the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) on terrorism (S/2005/789).

Ambassador Ronaldo Sardenberg of Brazil reported on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone.

Ambassador Mihnea Motoc of Romania reported on his chairmanship of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) (concerning Iraq) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (concerning non-proliferation).

Ambassador Abdallah Baali of Algeria presented conclusions regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The representative of Benin reported on Ambassador Simon Idohou's chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.
