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LETTER DATED 14 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter, dated 13 June 1997, which I have received from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations (see annex). Attached to the letter is the sixth bi-weekly report on the multinational protection force for Albania, as requested by the Security Council in resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

Annex

Letter dated 13 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of  
Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the sixth report on the multinational protection force for Albania (see appendix). The report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The fifth such report was conveyed to you on 6 June 1997 (see S/1997/440).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and the sixth report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI  
Ambassador

Appendix

Sixth report to the Security Council on the operation of the  
multinational protection force in Albania

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, to the Council through the Secretary-General. The first five reports were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May and 6 June 1997 (see S/1997/440). The sixth report is a special report referring to the modalities of the presence of the force after 28 June 1997 and in the light of the assessment of the situation by the Council three months after its adoption of resolution 1101 (1997), as foreseen by it in paragraph 6 of the resolution.

3. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, had a special meeting on 10 June under the chairmanship of Ambassador Amedeo de Franchis, the Italian political director, to approve the present special report.

4. The Steering Committee considered several requests by the Albanian authorities that the force remain in Albania during the electoral process to help ensure a safe and secure environment for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitoring teams, in the framework of the Security Council's mandate, and expressed its readiness to accede to those requests.

5. The Steering Committee examined the results of the International Meeting on Albania held at Rome on 26 May 1997. The participants at that Meeting had expressed appreciation for the neutral and impartial way in which the Security Council mandate had been carried out by the force in close contact with the Albanian authorities. They also recognized that the presence of the multinational protection force was effectively contributing to the stability of both the country and the region and stated that the force, within the framework of its mandate, would contribute to ensuring a safe environment in Albania during the electoral process, taking into account in all possible ways the OSCE electoral concept.

6. The Steering Committee took note of the requests presented in that connection by the Director-General of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE, Ambassador Stoudmann, during the Committee's meeting of 4 June.

7. The Steering Committee noted the indications provided by the Albanian authorities and OSCE that the electoral process would exceed the present time-limit of the mandate.

8. The Steering Committee also noted the results of a planning meeting of military representatives of the troop-contributing countries, which took place at Rome on 6 June and which examined the operational modalities for the force to ensure a secure environment for OSCE/ODIHR personnel during the electoral process and in the framework of its mandate as defined in Security Council resolution 1101 (1997).

9. The Steering Committee noted that a withdrawal of the multinational protection force by 28 June, the day before the planned elections in Albania, as foreseen in paragraph 6 of resolution 1101 (1997), would not allow the force to provide the above-mentioned secure environment and would therefore undermine one of the main efforts of international assistance to Albania, with an added negative impact on the improvements so far achieved through the efforts of the international community in close cooperation with the Albanian authorities and in addition to their own action in that field.

10. The Steering Committee took note of the readiness of the contributing countries to maintain, for a limited time, their military contingents in Albania as part of the multinational protection force and in the framework of the mandate given by the Security Council.

11. The Steering Committee took note that, for a limited period of time, coinciding with the electoral process and for the specific purpose of protecting the OSCE electoral missions, a limited increase in the strength of the force from that originally planned would be necessary.

12. In view of the above, the Steering Committee recommends that the mandate given to the force by the Security Council in resolution 1101 (1997) be extended for the period necessary for the completion of the electoral process in Albania and in any event not longer than 45 days after the termination of the present mandate.

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