

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
16 March 2001

Original: English

Note verbale dated 16 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to attach a copy of a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe wishes to remind the Security Council that peacekeeping operations are an international obligation and, as such, should not be held hostage to bilateral relations between member States.

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe finds it disquieting that a permanent member of the Security Council which supported the adoption of Security Council resolution 1244 (1991) takes it upon itself to frustrate the implementation of that same resolution while maintaining that it is pursuing an ethical foreign policy.

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe requests the President of the Security Council to bring this matter to the attention of one of its members with a view to finding an amicable resolution of this problem, which, if ignored, could threaten the lives and efficiency of Zimbabwean civilian police officers deployed in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe further requests that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.



Annex to the note verbale dated 16 March 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to bring the following to the latter's attention.

Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), Zimbabwe joined other peace-loving nations belonging to the United Nations in answering the call by the United Nations to contribute civilian police to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to help bring peace to that troubled region. Along with others, the Zimbabwean police officers have, to the best of our knowledge, acquitted themselves well in their duties.

Unfortunately an unnecessary complication, which threatens Zimbabwe's positive contribution to good international effort and the lives of the Zimbabwean police officers, has arisen.

Since the deployment of the said officers in Kosovo, the appropriate authorities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have constrained Zimbabwe's efforts to deliver arms and ammunition to its civilian police in Kosovo, because British Airways, the only airline flying to Kosovo, refuses to transport these vital items. The reason given for this stance is that it is consistent with the British Government's current policies on the Government of Zimbabwe.

The Government of Zimbabwe is of the view that United Nations peacekeeping operations should not be held hostage to bilateral relations between Member States. In this regard, therefore, it is the wish of the Government of Zimbabwe that the Secretary-General bring this matter to the attention of the relevant authorities at the United Nations with a view to its speedy resolution.
