



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 December 2001 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 attach a copy of a letter sent today from Jack Straw, Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, addressed to the Secretary-General.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Jeremy Greenstock**



Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General

The United Kingdom warmly welcomes the key role that the United Nations has played in helping to promote new political and security structures in Afghanistan. We would like to congratulate you and Ambassador Brahimi for your tireless efforts, which led to the signing of the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (Bonn Agreement) (see S/2001/1154).

I am now writing to inform you that the United Kingdom is willing to become the initial lead nation for the International Security Assistance Force for Kabul and its surrounding area under the terms of annex I to the Bonn Agreement.

As stated in annex I, the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout Afghanistan resides with the Afghans themselves. The International Security Assistance Force will assist the interim Afghan administration in the maintenance of security for Kabul and its surrounding areas. Our proposal is based on the willingness expressed to receive such a force and an authorizing Security Council resolution.

The United Kingdom is prepared to serve as the initial lead nation for a period of approximately three months for this multinational operational deployment, acting with the authority of the United Nations. It will transfer responsibility as the lead nation three months from the declaration of initial operational capability and no later than 30 April 2002. The United Kingdom thus requests you to support efforts to identify a successor lead nation by asking Member States to consider urgently the possibility of taking over as the next lead nation.

The core mission of the force in the initial phase would be to assist in the maintenance of security as envisaged in annex I to the Bonn Agreement. We envisage that the tasks of the force could include:

- Liaison with the new interim administration in Afghanistan to help its establishment and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;
- Advice and support to the interim administration and to the United Nations and its personnel in Kabul on security issues;
- Scoping future requirements for helping the Afghan authorities in the establishment and training of new Afghan security and armed forces, key infrastructure development tasks and possible future expanded security assistance in other areas of Afghanistan.

The International Security Assistance Force will have a particular mission authorized by a Security Council resolution that is distinct from Operation Enduring Freedom. The United Kingdom, as the lead nation, will exercise command of the International Security Assistance Force. It will include the troops and equipment contributed by other nations and will have the support of the United States.

In respect of the relationship between the International Security Assistance Force and forces operating in the Afghanistan theatre under Operation Enduring Freedom, and for reasons of effectiveness, the United States Central Command will have authority over the International Security Assistance Force to deconflict

International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom activities and to ensure that International Security Assistance Force activities do not interfere with the successful completion of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A joint coordinating body will be developed with representatives from the United States Central Command, the Afghan interim administration and the International Security Assistance Force to deal with operational issues.

To ensure effective political-military coordination, the International Security Assistance Force will establish a committee of contributors with the lead nation as the chair. As the initial lead nation, the United Kingdom will report regularly to the Security Council on developments.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jack **Straw**
