

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

With reference to our letter dated 24 June 2002, I have the honour to attach herewith the first report on the work of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) covering the period from 20 June 2002, the day when Turkey assumed the command of ISAF, to 31 July 2002 (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Altay **Cengizer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Monthly report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, for the period from 20 June to 31 July 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Turkish leadership of ISAF has made a satisfactory start in its mission to implement the international community's objectives in Kabul and its surrounding areas. While the situation is calm, the security circumstances remain somewhat fragile, with potential threats of instability. Although the circumstances still pose a challenge for the ISAF, the outlook is nevertheless promising. ISAF leadership is giving a special emphasis to assistance in the field of health, education and other social activities. Materialization of the international community's commitments declared in the Tokyo Conference for the reconstruction of Afghanistan will continue to constitute a decisive factor in the overall effort to help Afghanistan stand on its feet. Efforts to build the Afghan national army and the police force remain to be of crucial importance in terms of consolidating the authority of the Transitional Administration and strengthening the sense of national identity and unity. The unpredicted speed of the return of refugees and the problems in paying the salaries of the Afghan security personnel need to be addressed expeditiously.

1. INTRODUCTION

The new government of the Afghan Transitional Administration has officially been sworn in on 24 June 2002. The situation in Kabul and its surrounding areas is calm, significant progress has been achieved towards stability with the formation of a broad-based government and the outlook is reasonably promising. However, the security circumstances remain potentially vulnerable, as demonstrated by a high-profile assassination, with the investigation of which the ISAF is now assisting the Afghan Transitional Administration at the official request of the Afghan President. All ISAF personnel are serving with a strong sense of mission and extensive work to improve living and working conditions at the ISAF headquarters is nearing completion.

2. ISAF ACTIVITIES

a. General

1) Turkey has officially taken over the command of the ISAF from the United Kingdom as of 20 June 2002, in a hand-over ceremony attended by President Karzai. The transition of command has been completed smoothly and without any gaps in operations. The Turkish Battle Group has moved into south Kabul to take over the mission of the United Kingdom Battle Group as of 27 June 2002. Turkey has also taken operational command of the Kabul airbase on 30 June 2002. The ISAF is presently composed of 4947 personnel from 19 nations. Its current composition and manpower levels are provided in the appendix.

2) The ISAF leadership has been able to forge excellent cooperative relationships with the new Afghan government and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General. It is particularly reassuring to note that there is full congruity between the objectives of the ISAF and of the Afghan authorities. Major General Hilmi Akın Zorlu, the ISAF Commander, maintains regular contact with President Karzai and senior members of the new government on how best to achieve the common task of ensuring that the ISAF is successful in assisting the Afghan Islamic Transitional Authority in the maintenance of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas.

3) The Joint Coordinating Body (JCB), set up in accordance with the Military Technical Agreement, held its first meeting during the term of Turkish leadership of the ISAF on 27 June 2002, with an agenda prepared by the ISAF and with the participation of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ambassador Brahimi, the ISAF Commander Major General Zorlu, Minister of the Interior Taj Muhammed Wardak and Chief of the General Staff General Dilaver. The participants discussed a number of issues, including the security situation in Kabul, future Afghan security structures and the return of refugees. The participants agreed to endeavour to meet every fortnight. The ISAF leadership also participated in a meeting hosted by Special Representative Ambassador Brahimi on 30 June 2002 on the subject of security sector reform in Afghanistan. The Second Meeting of JCB was held on 29 July 2002 with the participation of Special Representative Ambassador Brahimi, the ISAF Commander Major General Zorlu, Vice President and Defence Minister Fehim Khan, Interior

Minister Wardak, General Kern from the United States Embassy and German Commander Wolf from KMNB. The Agenda of the JCB meeting was as follows:

- a. The security in Kabul and its surrounding areas,
- b. Update information on ISAF issues,
- c. Update information on Afghan Transitional Authority issues,
- d. Update information on UN Activities,
- e. Future Afghan security structures.

Next meeting is scheduled to take place in Defence Ministry HQ on 13 August 2002 to be hosted by Defence Minister and Vice President Fehim Khan. All participants describe the Joint Coordinating Body as a satisfactory, positive and operational meeting.

4) The validity of the Military Technical Agreement, concluded between the International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan Interim Authority in December 2001, has been extended, through an exchange of diplomatic notes between the Turkish Embassy in Kabul and the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to cover the extended period of six months, beyond 20 June 2002, of ISAF's authorization as mandated by Security Council resolution 1413 (2002).

5) The overriding priority of ISAF is to extend a helping hand to the people of Afghanistan in their hour of need, by assisting with the maintenance of security and stability in Kabul and its surroundings. The ISAF leadership is determined to treat everyone fairly and equally and to remain equidistant to all the ethnic groups which make up the people of Afghanistan.

b. Security in Kabul and its surrounding areas

1) Significant progress has been achieved towards political stability with the election of Hamid Karzai as President by the Emergency Loya Jirga, which met from 11 to 19 June 2002, with an overwhelming majority of votes.

2) The situation in and around Kabul is generally calm. The city is beginning to thrive, with noticeably increased commercial and social activities. The ISAF is well received by the local community and there has been no show of hostility towards ISAF personnel in the reporting period. At the request of the Afghan authorities, a high

proportion (approximately two thirds) of ISAF patrols are conducted jointly with the Afghan police. Nevertheless, the security circumstances remain vulnerable, as demonstrated by the assassination of Hadji Abdul Qadir, Vice-President and Minister for Public Works, on 6 July 2002, in an attack outside his office. The murder of such a prominent political figure has underlined certain shortfalls in the security system. The relative ease with which the attack was carried out has not only exposed the insufficient security precautions concerning the Minister's personal safety, but also highlighted the lack of coordination among the relevant security entities such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the intelligence agency, the local police and the Kabul garrison.

3) President Karzai has formally asked the ISAF to assist with the investigation of the assassination, in an effort to ensure impartiality, and this was followed by a written request based on a unanimous decision by the Afghan government. Following due consideration the ISAF leadership has decided that an administrative investigation, with the participation of the competent Afghan authorities, is compatible with the ISAF mandate of assisting in the maintenance of security. Three multinational committees, each with its own terms of reference, have since been set up to conduct the investigation, including one for medical supervision, with the participation of officers from Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Spain and Turkey. Those who have been arrested by the Afghan authorities in connection with the assassination remain in Afghan custody and the interrogation and medical examinations are conducted on Afghan premises.

4) The ISAF leadership has also strongly called on the Afghan authorities to improve their internal procedures for security coordination and intelligence-sharing. The ISAF has proposed a comprehensive set of measures to the Afghan leadership in order to enhance security in Kabul. The specific proposals submitted in this regard include the establishment of a joint working group with the participation of officials from the ISAF, the Ministries of the Interior and of Defence, the intelligence agency, the local police and the Kabul garrison; the preparation of a security plan for Kabul with a detailed division of labour among the security entities and the setting up of a joint operational centre to direct rapid response efforts at times of emergency.

5) It is reassuring to note that the Afghan authorities have promised their full cooperation and begun to make arrangements for the implementation of these

proposals. Random police checkpoints are now set up at different places in the city. A working group has been established under the chairmanship of General Bismillah Khan, Commander of the Kabul garrison, and work is underway to develop a detailed security plan for Kabul, with a clearly laid-out division of responsibilities among the relevant security establishments. At ISAF's suggestion, a command post exercise will be held in due course in order to test the improved arrangements for coordination. The ISAF is also running a close protection-training course for the bodyguards of Afghan Ministers and senior officials, for a total of 290 bodyguards. Furthermore, the ISAF has prepared a booklet on individual protection measures, which is about to be distributed to all senior officials. The ISAF has also offered to review the security arrangements of individual Ministers and to make recommendations for enhancing them.

6) ISAF is paying serious attention to provide information to the Afghan People by leaflets, posters, loudspeakers, Afghan Radio-TV and 'ISAF News', a periodical published by ISAF. The people have been informed about the following topics:

- Recognition and acceptance of ISAF by the people,
- Importance of providing support to ISAF and Afghan Transitional Administration,
- Terrorism as a threat to humanity,
- Importance of the unity and solidarity among ethnic groups, the risks of ethnic segregation in Afghanistan,
- The superiority of democracy and tolerance,
- The dangers of unexploded explosive ordnance.

It has been observed that these informative endeavours have made very positive effects on Afghan People.

c. Assistance projects towards the local community

The ISAF is resolved to sustain its substantial assistance efforts towards the local community, especially in the field of education, public health and water supply. On-going ISAF projects include the renovation of the rehabilitation centre of a military hospital with 800 beds, a circumcision ceremony (this is an activity which has a cultural and social significance for the people of Afghanistan) for 250

Afghan boys, renovation of school buildings and supply of educational aids and equipment, assistance to civilian and military hospitals, distribution of baby food and provision of equipment and engineering expertise to improve the water supply to some parts of the city. The ISAF also receives numerous requests for assistance and seeks to make a contribution to the local community through quick-impact projects by fully utilizing its limited resources.

3. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- a. Although not a central part of ISAF's mandate, among the challenges that are expected to require attention during the course of the Turkish leadership, the creation of a genuinely national army, to serve the interests of the entire Afghan nation, is of critical importance. The United States of America as the lead nation, some ISAF member countries such as France, Turkey and the ISAF are willing to continue to provide assistance with the formation and training of such an army. While national efforts are underway to train individual Afghan battalions, the ISAF leadership believes that the determination of the overall institutional structure, conceptual orientation and command and control arrangements of a new national army is of greater urgency.
- b. It is also crucial that international aid is sustained, as called for in resolution 1419 (2002), to help the Afghan government with its efforts at forming effective central governmental institutions and extending them to the entire country. In order to secure that objective, the central government has to be seen to be able to pay its soldiers, police officers and public employees and undertake a modicum of public works projects. It is thought that most police and army officers and public employees are not receiving their salaries on time.
- c. The high rate of return of refugees continues to place tremendous pressure on already scarce resources. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 1.3 million people are estimated to have returned to the country in the last six months. Experts estimate that this figure will reach two million by the end of the year. Approximately, 500,000 refugees have chosen to settle in Kabul so far. The consequences of such a large number of people living in desperate conditions will definitely have a negative impact on the overall security and stability in Kabul. Hence the ISAF attaches great importance to the issue.

- d. The ISAF leadership believes that security in Kabul would be difficult to ensure without resolving the issue of unpaid salaries for police and army officers and providing for the basic needs of the growing number of refugees. A failure to meet these challenges is likely to strengthen criminal tendencies and to undermine the ability of the government to project a degree of stability. The ISAF is aware that this would require the injection of significant amounts of aid into the country and would strongly support the efforts of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, to secure greater financial assistance from the international community.
- e. It is also important to reinforce government and United Nations efforts to stem the tide of the narcotics trade, and thus help remove a significant source of finance for terrorists and extremists.

4. CONCLUSION

The Turkish leadership of the ISAF has made a satisfactory start in its mission to implement the objectives of the international community in Kabul and its surrounding areas. While the situation in and around Kabul is calm, the security circumstances remain somewhat fragile, with potential threats of instability. The assassination of Hadji Abdul Qadir has not undermined Kabul's stability, but it has highlighted certain shortfalls in the security system, which the ISAF is now seeking to remedy, in cooperation with the Afghan authorities. The overall security circumstances still pose a challenge for the ISAF, but the outlook is nevertheless promising.

Appendix

ISAF participating countries as of 31 July 2002

<u>Country</u>	<u>Manpower</u>
Austria	71
Belgium	19
Bulgaria	32
Czech Republic	132
Denmark	36
Finland	31
France	520
Germany	1121
Greece	163
Ireland	7
Italy	403
Netherlands	232
New Zealand	8
Norway	17
Romania	55
Spain	349
Sweden	38
Turkey	1322
United Kingdom	426
Total	4982

Headquarters staff

Turkey	51
Other participating countries	45