

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
19 July 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 19 July 2007 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America 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 States in May 2007 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared by the United States Mission 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) Alejandro D. Wolff
Ambassador



Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2007 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America 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 States of America (May 2007)

Introduction

During the presidency of the United States of America, the Security Council held 15 meetings, including four briefings, two open debates and two private debates. In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 15 occasions. During May, the Council adopted two resolutions and three presidential statements. Security Council members also met over one weekend at a retreat to informally discuss the role of the Security Council.

Africa

Burundi

On 21 May, the Council convened for a private debate to hear from the representative of Burundi, Joseph Ntakirutimana, under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. The Chairperson of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the representative of Norway, Johan Løvald, briefed the Council on his recent trip to Burundi. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Youssef Mahmoud, also briefed the Council. The Council members then continued their consideration of the situation in Burundi in consultations of the whole. The Council formally responded by the adoption on 30 May of a presidential statement, drafted by France, in which the Council highlighted the hard work of the Government of Burundi, as well as the need for continued efforts (S/PRST/2007/16).

Chad

On 31 May, the Council received a briefing from the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the recent mission dispatched to Chad to engage with the Government of Chad about the details of United Nations peacekeeping in the country.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 18 May, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Council on developments in the peace process, including recommendations on revising the role of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in the light of the Ouagadougou peace agreement signed by President Gbagbo and the newly appointed Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro of the Forces nouvelles. Council members recognized the need to adopt a new resolution in June before the expiration of the UNOCI mandate.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 15 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1756 (2007), drafted by France, by which it decided to extend the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 31 December 2007. The Council stressed that primary responsibility for security in the country lay with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

In consultations of the whole on 8 May, the representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's report of 30 April (S/2007/250). Since the meeting of the Secretary-General with the representative of Eritrea on 2 April, the discussion had focused on the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Eritrea and Ethiopia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). In view of the impending conclusion of the mandate of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, the international community was seized with employing all approaches that could move the parties to engage and take responsibility for the Algiers peace agreements which they had signed. Following the consultations, the Council President read out a statement to the press, in which the Council members urged both parties to withdraw immediately their troops and equipment from positions within and in close proximity to the Temporary Security Zone, demanded that Ethiopia implement fully and without delay the decision of the Boundary Commission, and demanded that Eritrea reverse, without delay or preconditions, all restrictions on the movement and operations of UNMEE.

On 29 May, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, briefed the Council on the tense situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. It was emphasized that the impositions and additional restrictions by Eritrea were aggravating an already dangerous bilateral and regional situation. The two countries were encouraged to cooperate with UNMEE and implement provisions agreed to in the Algiers Agreements.

Sierra Leone

On 11 May, the Council received a briefing from the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, Victor da Silva Angelo. He informed Council members about the preparations for the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 28 July.

Sudan

On 25 May, the Council met in consultations of the whole to consider a draft presidential statement endorsing the agreement between the African Union and the United Nations to deploy a hybrid force for Darfur. Experts met throughout the day, culminating in consensus to adopt the presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/15).

Americas

Haiti

In consultations of the whole held on 30 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council members on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Following the consultations, the Council President read a statement to the press in which Council members expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts of MINUSTAH in supporting the Haitian National Police in the fight against gang violence, and encouraged further efforts to advance the reform of the justice system. The members also expressed their determination to continue to work collaboratively with the Government to consolidate the progress achieved and ensure a stable environment for democratic governance, economic growth and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 23 May, the Council received a briefing on the progress of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Tom Koenigs. The briefing had been requested by the delegation of the Russian Federation. Council members spoke following the Special Representative's briefing.

Lebanon

On 2 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel, Nicolas Michel, briefed the Council on his recent trip to Lebanon and urged members to respond to the need to fill the gap and assist in the entry into force of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The Legal Counsel held the view that the Council's intervention represented a lesser risk than not intervening at such a critical moment.

On 23 May, the Council President read out a statement to the press in which the members of the Council expressed their deep concern at the recent outbreak of violence in Lebanon, in which more than 60 people had been killed and numerous others injured, welcomed the determination of the Government of Lebanon to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of those and other terrorist attacks, and underlined their readiness to continue to act in support of the legitimate and democratically elected Government of Lebanon.

On 25 May, the United States introduced a draft resolution, co-sponsored by the United Kingdom and France, in response to the recent letter addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, who strongly urged the Council to intervene on the matter of establishing the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, as a matter of stability for the country. Council members committed themselves to working at the expert level on the draft resolution, and further considered it at consultations of the whole held on 29 May. On 30 May, the Council adopted resolution 1757 (2007) by 10 votes in favour, with 5 abstentions. In that resolution, the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the

Charter of the United Nations, authorized the establishment of the Special Tribunal in a timely manner.

Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General

On 4 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal, Ian Martin, introduced the first report of the Secretary-General on the item to the Council (S/2007/235). The Special Representative alerted Council members to the fact that the election, originally set for 20 June, would be delayed significantly, owing to the monsoon season, which would greatly hinder election preparations.

Middle East

On 24 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, stressed the immediate need for the cessation of the violence in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel. He also addressed dangerous outbreaks of violence in Lebanon between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Fatah al-Islam gunmen around the Palestinian refugee camps. The Under-Secretary-General expressed concern that that type of instability might spread to other refugee camps.

On 30 May, the Council President read a statement to the press in which Council members expressed their grave concern at the breakdown of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the resulting increase in violence, welcomed the efforts of the Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, to establish a ceasefire, and expressed appreciation for the active support of the Government of Egypt in that regard.

Timor-Leste

On 23 May, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/14) applauding Timor-Leste's latest efforts in democracy and peacebuilding with regard to the recent successful election.

On 30 May, the Council received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Atul Khare, in which he briefed the Council on the latest developments on the ground. The briefing highlighted the recent progress and the Special Representative also reviewed recent activities of United Nations personnel under investigation. Two staff members of the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste had been dismissed, and the Special Representative promised continued attention to these matters, with zero tolerance and complete accountability.

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

On 23 May, the Council agreed to the request of the Government of Iraq to transfer from the United Nations escrow account funds to pay for Iraq's United Nations dues, reducing the escrow account from US\$ 66 million to \$63 million, and authorized the President of the Council to send a letter to the Secretary-General to that effect (S/2007/301).

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 16 May, in a public debate, the Council received a final briefing from the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, who would be retiring. The High Representative focused on the need for constitutional reform that would bring greater unity to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Statements were made by Council members following the briefing.

Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue (resolution 1244 (1999))

On 2 May, the Council received a briefing by the head of the Security Council mission on the Kosovo issue, Johan Verbeke, the representative of Belgium. The Council convened again on 10 May to consider the report of the mission (S/2007/256).

Other issues

Briefings by Chairmen of counter-terrorism committees

On 22 May, at a formal meeting, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, Ricardo Arias, the representative of Panama; the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, Johan Verbeke, the representative of Belgium; and the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Peter Burian, the representative of Slovakia, briefed the Council. In addition to Council members, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Australia, Israel, Cuba, Venezuela, Japan, Liechtenstein, Viet Nam, Argentina, Rwanda, Switzerland and the Republic of Korea under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa

On 21 May, the Council received a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, on his recent trip to Somalia and Uganda. His briefing focused on internally displaced persons in Somalia and the failure of the Transitional Federal Government and allied Ethiopian forces to distinguish between combatants and civilians. On Uganda, the Humanitarian Coordinator focused on internally displaced persons and the effect of the ongoing peace talks, following up on the Juba peace agreement, between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda.

Great Lakes region

On 31 May, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, briefed the Council on her recent trip to the Great Lakes region. She focused on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and spoke about impunity, security sector reform, violence against women, administration of justice, children and armed conflict and the mapping mandate. Most members welcomed the briefing of the High Commissioner, recognizing that the information contained in the

briefing better informed the Council members for future decisions on peace and security relating to the Great Lakes region.

Security Council mission to Africa

On 16 May, the delegations of South Africa and the United Kingdom presented their draft itinerary for a Security Council mission to Africa in June and the related terms of reference for the consideration of Council members.
