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Update Note for the Secretary-General
9 March 2006

1. Afghanistan

Richard Holbrook will visit Afghanistan 21-15 March with his wife and Chief of Staff. DPKO has asked UNAMA to provide UN logistic support, though there are security concerns about his car trip from Kabul to Mazar in a UN vehicle.

2. Cyprus

Møller reports that the political leadership in the north are under instructions not to communicate with UNFICYP on any issue until UNNY provides a response to Denktash's "telegraphic message" of 28 Feb to you. DPA will prepare the answer.

3. Israel-Palestine

UNSCO has been informed by State Department that Condoleeza Rice has extended Wolfensohn's Quartet mandate by one month.

Ma'ariv reports that Israel is holding secret talks with the US with the aim of transferring funds to the Palestinians without the involvement of the PA. Organizations to be approved include UNRWA, UNDP and UNICEF. "Israel is reluctant to approve UNRWA, due to the ties of some of its members to Hamas. But due to the severe situation in the territories, several agencies were added to the list that are less than ideal from Israel's standpoint."

4. Myanmar

Ali Alatas has written to DPA that President Yudhoyono met with Senior General Than Shwe and conveyed to him the message contained in your letter of 2 February. He urged Than Shwe to allow the visit of the Malaysian Foreign Minister as soon as possible and before the ASEAN Foreign Ministers retreat in Jakarta in April. Yudhoyono also reiterated ASEAN's position that all political parties, including opposition parties, and their leaders should be included in the National Convention and the process of the implementation of the seven-point road map for democratic transition in Myanmar.

Mr. Alatas reported that there was no concrete commitment on the part of General Than Shwe to these suggestions. However, the Senior General agreed to a proposal that Indonesia would send special envoys to continue discussion on how Jakarta can assist Myanmar in its efforts toward democratization and reconciliation, and to establish a joint ministerial commission which would hold its first meeting in April.

5. Sudan

UNMIS reported that SRSG Pronk met State Minister Karti on 6 March to discuss the political transition from AMIS to UN in Darfur. The Minister noted that the current discussion was negatively affecting the ongoing peace process and requested UNMIS's support in clarifying the UN position in this regard. SRSG Pronk suggested that UNMIS should have increased

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access to local media to correct public misconception of the UN position. Local media reported that at the 7 March meeting of the Council of States, some Sudanese officials rejected any "international" intervention in Darfur. However, the SPLM representatives presented their position in a letter supporting the deployment of UN forces in Darfur as "timely, correct, appropriate and legal". Yesterday, after meeting with Solana and the US Deputy Secretary Zoellick in Brussels, Vice President Taha said that Sudan may consider allowing a UN mission in Darfur region once a political settlement to the conflict in the area is reached. However, he pointed out that the GoS would not be responsible for what happens in Darfur if the AU Peace and Security Council approved a UN force on 10 March.

UNMIS also reported on SRSR Pronk's separate meetings with the Egyptian Foreign Minister and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The Egyptian Minister warned against any intervention without the GoS's consent and expressed concern over the security of Egyptian troops in case they are deployed in Darfur. He agreed that a transition was necessary in view of the weak capacity of the AU on the ground. However, both advocated a slow process and a cautious approach to transition.


According to the SitCen, some opposition figures spoke in favour of the deployment of a UN-led operation in Darfur. The AU, which is expected to meet tomorrow, has asked for more time before a decision is taken on a transition from AMIS to a UN operation.

6. MINUSTAH

MINUSTAH has reported in the last two days that PM Latortue has reversed his earlier support for the legal agreement ("Supplemental Agreement to the SOFA") on police reform signed 22 February during his visit to NY. The PM suggested that the agreement imposes unacceptable limits on bilateral agreements on police reform and inhibits the Government's capacity to dismiss officers that have been found guilty in the legal system. The PM intends to put on hold the coming into effect of the agreement until the relevant points have been brought into line with the Haitian Constitution. MINUSTAH feels neither objection is well-founded and results from political pressure on the PM.

Foreign Minister Abraham has written to you to indicate their intention to renegotiate the agreement.

The agreement on police reform provides a practical and legal basis for the operational coordination, reform and development of the HNP, in accordance with the Security Council's mandate. The absence of such an arrangement could hinder the Mission's ability to advance in this key area. SRSR Valdes is seeking to reassure his Haitian counterparts and to clarify with them the purpose of the arrangement.


Carlos Lopes
8 March 2006

cc: Mr. Malloch-Brown
Ms. Bárcena

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Is there anything I can do to support Valdes' efforts to secure a quick agreement on the HNP issue?

[Signature] 11/3