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FYA.

file on staff
KO memo
? S. 23/

**Note to the Secretary-General
(through Mr. Riza)**

Ref: Statement on Staff Security

Dear SG,

1. Please find attached, for your review, a draft of the above, prepared by us on the basis of a longer draft submitted by Mr. Oshima at your request.
2. You will note that this includes a call for a 24-hour moratorium on "all but life-saving assistance" in the DRC and Sudan.
3. I am advised by OCHA that this would be a purely symbolic gesture, intended to catch media attention, without practical consequences.
4. Nevertheless, I wonder if it is wise. Some people might accuse you of "collective punishment" or "taking revenge" for the killing of humanitarian workers, by withholding relief from innocent and needy people. Alternatively, people may ask whether it is appropriate for you as Secretary-General to resort to "gimmicks" of this kind.
5. I also note that Mr. Oshima had suggested you should make the statement in person, either to the Security Council or to the media, rather than through your Spokesman. It seems to me that, as a way of drawing attention to it, this might be preferable to calling for a meaningless moratorium.
6. Finally, I believe nothing much would be lost if you waited to do this until you are back at Headquarters, since it is already too late for the statement to be seen as a swift and decisive reaction to the deaths in Sudan and the DRC.

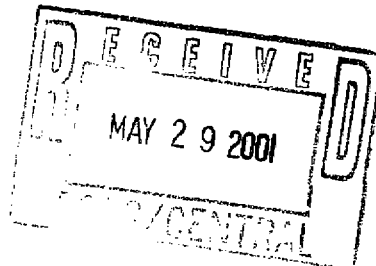
*Recommend
omission of
this idea.*

*Recommend
statement to
Council, to
be disseminated
in media.*

Yours sincerely, EM

Edward Mortimer
14 May, 2001

cc: Mr. Sise, Mr. Hayford.



Statement attributable to the Spokesman of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General is dismayed at the increased targeting of men and women serving in humanitarian and peacekeeping missions worldwide. In the past twelve months alone, the lives of 14 UN staff were cut down in brutal disregard of international humanitarian law and the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality by which the United Nations provides humanitarian assistance. And in the past three weeks, the International Committee of the Red Cross has mourned the loss of a pilot shot down in Sudan and six relief workers brutally killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These deaths are a deep blow to the families and friends of those who died; to the entire humanitarian family; and to the millions of people in need who desperately rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The Secretary-General appeals to both Member States and warring parties to fulfil their obligations to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers. Member States must translate into reality the concerns they have expressed in the General Assembly and the Security Council. Warring parties must respect and apply international humanitarian law in territories under their control. The Secretary-General also calls upon Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

And, as an act of solidarity and unity with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Secretary-General calls for a 24-hour moratorium, commencing immediately, on all but life-saving assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Sudan. He will implement this policy of unity with our humanitarian partners wherever necessary until such time as the message has been heard, loud and clear, that these heinous attacks will not stand and that their perpetrators must be brought to justice.

*SIR and
EH recommend
a joint
(to do I?)
ST*

*I had indicated to Oshin that
we needed to highlight the plight of humanitarian
workers. I shall speak to the council
on return and release the council to the press
after that meeting. I reject the 24 hour
moratorium proposal. 15/5/01*