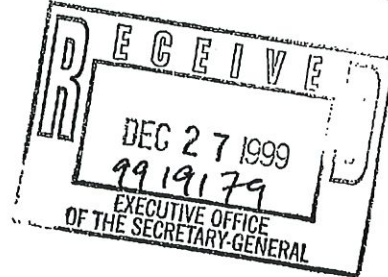
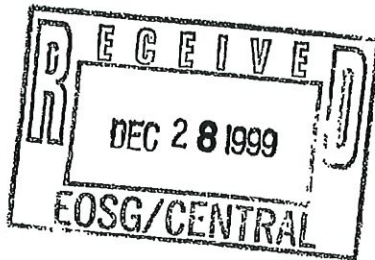


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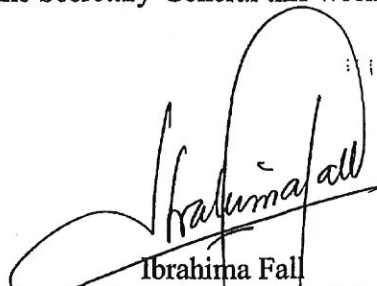
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Note to Mr. Riza

**DPA'S WEEKLY REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS
IN PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND PEACEMAKING**

As requested, I attach for submission to the Secretary-General this week's report on the above subject.


Ibrahima Fall
Officer-in-Charge/DPA
23 December 1999

Copy to:

- The Deputy Secretary-General
- Mr. Connor
- Mr. Corell
- Mr. Miyet
- Ms. McAskie
- Mr. Carlson (Situation Centre)
- (Mr. Riza original + 4 copies)

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**SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN
PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND PEACEMAKING
IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 17 DECEMBER – 23 DECEMBER 1999**

Department of Political Affairs

AFRICA

Burundi: A member of parliament from the FRODEBU party was shot and killed by a soldier in Bujumbura on 20 December under unclear circumstances, prompting the Speaker of Parliament to call for an inquiry into the incident. Meanwhile, seven political groups participating in the Arusha peace process issued a statement calling for an end to the government's re-groupment policy.

Cote d'Ivoire: On 22 December, in his address to the Nation, President Bedie warned the opposition that it would have to adhere to a "code of good behaviour" if officials of Ouattara's RDR (Republican Rally) party were to be released. He also asked the opposition party to find a new candidate for next year's presidential elections other than Alassane Ouattara. Mr Ouattara, who currently remains in Paris, has asked France and President Bongo to mediate in the Ivorian political crisis. Meanwhile, groups of soldiers who took to the streets of Abidjan on 23 December to protest against pay and working conditions, raised fears of a possible coup attempt, a development which is seen as complicating the ongoing political crisis.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: The President of the Security Council made a statement on 22 December in which he called for an early meeting of the Political committee and the JMC and pointed out that in order to play its role in a peacekeeping operation, the UN must be confident that the parties are determined to respect the cease-fire. Meanwhile, RCD, RCD-ML and MLC, who met in Kabale (Uganda) and agreed on 20 December to set up two working commissions to co-ordinate their policies (for talks with the DRC government) and their military activities, excluded the possibility of any merger. Mr Ketumile Masire has not yet confirmed his acceptance of the offer made to him on 15 December to become the Facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue. Presidents Museveni and Kabila met in Libya in the presence of the Presidents of Libya, Eritrea and Sudan and were reported to have reached understanding on bilateral issues of contention.

Eritrea/Ethiopia: The OAU is persisting in its mediation efforts. It was understood to have handed to Ethiopia its second set of clarifications this week. Meanwhile, Norway made a second contribution of about half a million US dollars to the UN Trust Fund to demarcate the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, bringing its total contribution to the Fund close to 1 million dollars.

Eritrea/Yemen: On 17 December, the Arbitration Tribunal formed to adjudicate the territorial sovereignty of islands in the Red Sea and to delimit the International maritime boundary between the two countries announced its second and final award, stating that the international boundary shall be a single all-purpose boundary, which is a median line between the opposite mainland coastlines. It also entitled both Eritrean and Yemeni fishermen to engage in artisanal fishing around the islands which, in its first Award on Sovereignty, the Tribunal attributed to Yemen. On 20 December, Eritrea re-affirmed that it would be bound by all the decisions of the Arbitration Court in accordance with the Arbitration Agreement signed by both parties. Yemen's reaction is awaited.

Ghana: On 21 December, President Rawlings urged ECOWAS' members to "shake off their over-reliance on colonial masters" and work towards economic integration of the sub-region. In this respect, Rawlings commended Ghana and Nigeria's efforts to establish a common currency.

Liberia/Sierra Leone: On 20 December, General Sam Bockarie, erstwhile Field Commander of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone, attended a meeting in Monrovia with Presidents Charles Taylor of Liberia and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and RUF leader Foday Sankoh. Official sources report that it was agreed that General Bockarie would stay in Liberia until all the combatants in Sierra Leone's civil war had disarmed. It was further reported that General Bockarie had not been given the option of returning to Sierra Leone, as his presence there would endanger the peace process. He was, however, given the option to live in exile in a third country if he did not wish to stay in Liberia.

Libya: On 21 December, Col. Qaddafi chaired a mini African summit, bringing together DRC President Kabila and Ugandan President Museveni as well as Sudan's President al-Beshir and Eritrean President Afeworki. He declared that Libya would put "all its means" at the disposal of African leaders.

Mozambique: RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama rejected the results of the presidential and legislative elections held from 03 to 05 December. He said that he would challenge the victory of President Chissano and of FRELIMO, and threatened to make Mozambique "ungovernable" if the Government were to exert pressure on the Supreme Court to validate the elections' results. On 22 December, the National Elections Commission announced that FRELIMO had won 133 seats in the 250-seat National Assembly. President Chissano obtained 52.3 per cent of the vote whilst his sole rival polled 47.7 per cent. No other parties won seats in the legislature.

Niger: Mamadou Tandja was sworn in as the country's democratically elected President on 22 December. He promised to include opposition parties in the management of state affairs and to "depoliticise the administration".

Senegal/Gambia: On 22 December, Senegal's President Diouf confirmed that negotiations between his Government and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) would begin in Banjul, the Gambia, on 26 December. Whilst the MFDC leader, Father Diamacoune Senghor, has re-affirmed Casamance's right to independence, the Government remains opposed to independence.

Somalia: On 22 December, five of Mogadishu's main faction leaders, including Hussein Aidid and Ali Mahdi's representative, reportedly signed an agreement to end their long-standing rivalry and struggle for power. However, the boycott of the agreement by Muse Sudi Yalahow, a key figure who controls parts of North Mogadishu and Medina district, is expected to make the agreement not viable.

Sudan: The situation in the country remains calm, with few signs of the emergency rule being enforced. Meanwhile, an IGAD delegation headed by Ambassador Mboya visited Khartoum in an effort to prepare for the next round of talks on 15 January 2000.

AMERICAS

Colombia: FARC guerrillas announced a holiday cessation of hostilities from 20 December through 10 January. The temporary truce comes after a series of FARC attacks left some 200 people dead. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on International Assistance to Colombia completed his first official visit to the country, where he undertook wide consultations to determine how the UN could best assist in promoting human rights, humanitarian assistance, development and peace in Colombia.

Guatemala: The presidential election campaign ended on 24 December, two days before the vote on 26 December. The latest polls show the FRG candidate, Mr Portillo, ahead with 67.7% of the vote. MINUGUA will verify political rights on Election Day in 300 municipalities out of 330. The OAS and the EU will also send observers.

Haiti: The head of the OAS electoral observation mission visited Haiti; their first team of observers will arrive in Haiti on 10 January. Canada announced that it would contribute 3.5 million Canadian dollars for MICAH.

Nicaragua-Honduras: A treaty signed between Colombia and Honduras in 1986 entered into full effect on 21 December, in spite of protests by Nicaragua. The two countries registered the treaty with the United Nations after ratification by their respective legislatures.

Venezuela: The death toll left by torrential rains last week is now estimated to range from 30,000 to 50,000. The disaster has left some 200,000 people without homes and caused several billion dollars worth of damage in a country already hit by a severe recession. The UN General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution on 22 December urging the international community to provide aid in the rescue and reconstruction phase.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Afghanistan: Indicating a possible change in Iran's attitude, President Khatami called for power sharing between the Rabbani-led United Front (UF) and the Taliban. In another development, the Taliban rejected the US warning that they would be held responsible for any terrorist attack traced to bin Laden. On 21 December, Pakistani Interior Minister Haider said that Pakistan was ready to help resolve the row between the US and the Taliban over bin Laden.

East Timor: As the Indonesian probe into the post-ballot violence in East Timor, the commission of investigation increasingly focuses on the responsibility of the TNI high command. It is facing growing resistance from the military, including General Wiranto. Given the aversion to an international tribunal (including on the part of President Wahid), however, it will prove difficult to cast aside the domestic process, a point that makes continued international engagement doubly important.

Korean Peninsula: Sustaining a positive mood, Japan and the DPRK agreed to meet again, next January or February, in order to continue talks on normalising ties between the two countries.

Sri Lanka: President Kumaratunga was narrowly re-elected on 21 December. Her victory was facilitated by a so-called 'sympathy vote' following an assassination attempt by a Tamil suicide bomber three days before the voting. With about 51 percent of the vote, Kumaratunga's mandate is much weaker than six years ago when she was first elected. The military defeats of the government forces in the past six weeks indicated that the separatist Tamil Tigers (LTTE) are far from being defeated. At this stage, it is unclear what concretely, if anything, the President is planning to do to re-launch the peace process, except for offering constitutional reforms - a strategy that was already stalled in parliament and rejected by the LTTE. For the time being, it is expected that fighting will continue.

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