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THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ

1 October 2003

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to Afghanistan from 31 October to 8 November 2003, which will be led by Ambassador Gunter Pleuger. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission, a copy of which is enclosed herewith (see annex).

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission will be as follows:

- Germany (Ambassador Gunter Pleuger - Head of mission)
- Angola (Counsellor Candido Pereira Dos Santos Van-Dunem)
- Bulgaria (Ambassador Stefan Tafrov)
- Cameroon (Minister Counsellor Mathieu Blaise Banoum)
- Chile (Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz)
- China (Minister Counsellor Jingye Cheng)
- France (Ambassador Jean-Marc De La Sabliere)
- Guinea (Minister Counsellor Boubacar Diallo)
- Mexico (Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser)
- Pakistan (Ambassador Munir Akram)
- Russian Federation (Ambassador Sergey Lavrov)
- Spain (Ambassador Inocencio Arias)
- Syrian Arab Republic (Second Secretary Bassam Sabagh)
- United Kingdom (Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry)
- United States (Ambassador John D. Negroponte)

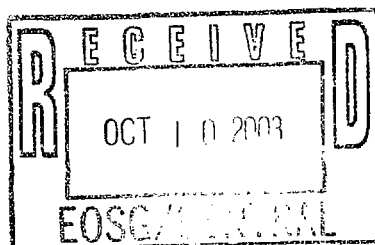
I should be grateful if you could have the Secretariat make all the necessary arrangements to facilitate the work of the mission.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Handwritten signature of John D. Negroponte

John D. Negroponte
President of the Security Council

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General



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Terms of Reference for the Security Council Mission to Afghanistan

1. The members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to Afghanistan. The visit will take place from 31 October to 8 November 2003. The Mission will visit Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif. On the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Mission will also visit Islamabad for briefings and consultations.
 2. The mission has the following objectives:
 - to underscore the international community's unwavering commitment to the peace and reconstruction process in Afghanistan and to promote further international and regional support to this end,
 - to review the progress achieved so far and to encourage the Afghan Transitional Administration to further strengthen the implementation of the Bonn Agreement, including with respect to Security Sector Reform, DDR and the election process,
 - to observe the operations of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), including its role in assisting the Transitional Administration in preparing for the elections and in implementing the constitution and in coordinating all United Nations activities,
 - to observe the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), to discuss ways to improve the security situation and to expand the authority of the Afghan Transitional Administration throughout the country, and, in this context, to obtain a fuller understanding of the role of the PRTs,
 - to review the humanitarian and human rights situation, in particular with regard to women, children, refugees, and internally displaced persons, and to assess the status of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,
 - to review the implementation of the Declaration of Good Neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002,
 - to convey a strong message to regional and factional leaders about the need to reject all violence, condemn extremist, terrorist and illegal drug activities, ensure public order and safety, promote inter-ethnic reconciliation and support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement and fully cooperate with the Afghan Transitional Administration in line with the agreement of 22 May 2003 and UNAMA to these ends.
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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4833rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 September 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Justice and the Rule of Law: the United Nations Role", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council met at Ministerial level on 24 September 2003 to consider 'Justice and the Rule of Law: the United Nations Role'. Ministers expressed their respective views and understandings on, and reaffirmed the vital importance of these issues, recalling the repeated emphasis given to them in the work of the Council, for example in the context of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in relation to peacekeeping operations and in connection with international criminal justice.

"The statements made on 24 September demonstrated the abundant wealth of relevant experience and expertise that exists within the United Nations system and in the Member States. Ministers considered that it would be appropriate to examine further how to harness and direct this expertise and experience so that it was more readily accessible to the Council, to the wider United Nations membership and to the international community as a whole, so that the lessons and experience of the past could be, as appropriate, learned and built on. The Council welcomed in particular the offer by the Secretary-General to provide a report which could guide and inform further consideration of these matters.

"The Council invites all Members of the United Nations, and other parts of the United Nations system with relevant experience and expertise, to contribute to this process of reflection and analysis on these matters, beginning with the further meeting on this subject which will be convened on 30 September 2003."

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