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Primary Contact

Home Location **S-0041-0001-058 (In Container)**Assignee **In Container 'S-0041-0001-058 (Souleymane Soukouna)' since 04/12/2006 at**

Priority

Local-container

Owner Location **Archives and Records Management Section**Record Type **Archival Item**

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Document Details

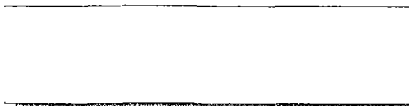
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Notes

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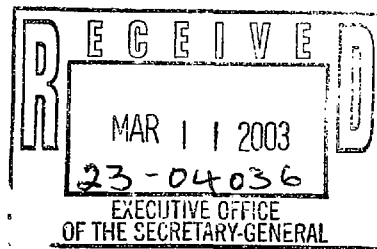
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Note to Mr. Riza

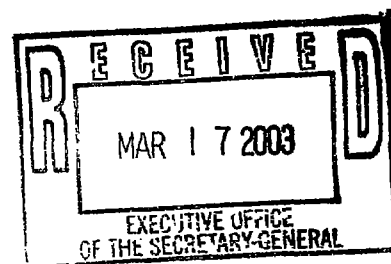
The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
3-21 March 2003

The general debate of this year's session of the Special Committee was held on 3-4 March. I am enclosing a summary of the proceedings for the Secretary-General's information.

J. M. Guéhenno

Jean-Marie Guéhenno
11 March 2003

SG FHE 11/3
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13/3



#7 13 March

Fifty-seven session of the General Assembly

**Summary of main points of the General Debate of the
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
(3 and 4 March 2003)**

1. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations opened its annual session, on 3 March 2003, with the re-election of its Bureau and the formation of an open-ended working group. The working group is expected to report to the Committee at the end of the session, on 21 March.
2. The Committee's general debate took place on 3 and 4 March. Statements were made by the following Committee members: Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Peru (on behalf of the Rio Group), Jordan (on behalf of the NAM), Nigeria, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Croatia, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, the United States, Algeria, China, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Argentina, Uruguay, Iran, Norway, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Syria, Egypt, Slovakia, Bulgaria, India, Namibia, Indonesia, Poland, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Malaysia, Morocco, Bangladesh, Brazil, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Romania, Lebanon, Pakistan, South Africa, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, Singapore, Nepal, Chile and Malawi. The following observers also spoke: Malta and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations made a statement to the opening session.
3. Several Member States welcomed the progress made in the further development of the rapid deployment capability, for both personnel (United Nations Stand-by Arrangements System) and materiel (Strategic Deployment System). Transparency in the recruitment process figured prominently in some statements, and concerns were expressed regarding the recruitment procedures both at Headquarters and in the field. Some Member States observed that the incumbency of senior DPKO posts were not fully reflective of troop contributing countries (TCCs), and sought information on progress achieved in the development of a consistent policy on disciplinary matters.
4. Member States expressed satisfaction at the significant improvements in the timeliness of reimbursements to TCCs. They welcomed the planned strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit (PBPU), in particular as the interface between DPKO and Member States. They looked forward to the Unit becoming fully operational, with the arrival of staff against new posts approved for the Unit.
5. Member States termed DPKO's development of a clear communications strategy as an important step. They opined that States should work more closely with the Situation Centre, the PBPU and other areas of the Department, to ensure that information was shared and used. Member States stressed the need to take advantage of Internet technology, so that reports and records of relevant meetings could be widely distributed. PBPU was identified as a logical resource centre for that purpose.

6. Member States emphasized the growing importance of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DD&R) in peacekeeping operations, and took particular note of the special role that DD&R would need to play in support of DPKO's commitment to improving African peacekeeping capacities. They also noted that DD&R would play a key role in Phase III of MONUC's operations. //

7. Member States welcomed the enhancement of the triangular consultation mechanism between the Security Council, TCCs and the Secretariat. The importance of open dialogue and cooperation between Member States and the Secretariat was emphasized, especially with regard to developing a constructive plan of action for the Committee's work. They emphasized increased cooperation, expressing the view that TCCs should have a greater say in planning mission mandates. //

8. Member States underscored the increasing role of civilian police in peacekeeping operations and the importance of strengthening regional peacekeeping training centres. They expressed satisfaction with DPKO's commitment to the development of common standards for the training and conduct of civilian police and military personnel in peacekeeping missions. The expansion of generic force and the development of standardized generic training modules were highlighted as positive and necessary efforts to improve peacekeeping activities. Member States stressed the need for further action in the area of rule of law, viewing it as essential for a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. //

9. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers was seen as a priority for all TCCs. They emphasized the need for close consultation and cooperation with Member States to establish clear safety and security guidelines. Bearing in mind the political nature of the issues to be confronted, they considered that safety and security guidelines could not be formulated in isolation. //

10. Member States welcomed the designation of 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, and sought information on the proposed programme to celebrate it. //