



S-0043-0002-159-00051

Expanded Number **S-0043-0002-159-00051**

External ID

Title

**Item-in-KAA: DPA- Security Council Matters - General (Jan - Sept) 2001**

Date Created

Date Registered

Date Closed

17/11/2006 at 11:19 AM

17/11/2006

Primary Contact

Home Location S-0043-0002-159 (In Container)

Assignee In Container 'S-0043-0002-159 (Marvin Cordova)' since 22/11/2006 at 9:29 AM

Priority

Local-container

Owner Location Archives and Records Management Section

Record Type Archival Item

Date Published

Document Details

Container S-0043-0002: DPA - Security Council Matters - General

Notes

Record has no document attached.

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit



Security Council Matters

Note to Mr. Prendergast

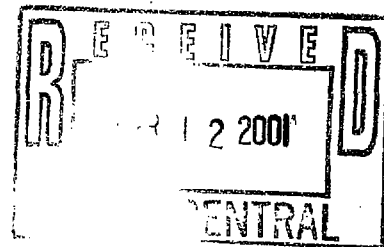
Working methods of the Security Council

1. Many thanks for your note of 10 April on the above-mentioned subject. The Secretary-General has been informed of the discussions held by the Council members on 3 April. Points made in your note have implications for the work of different Departments of the Secretariat. Therefore, I would appreciate receiving consolidated views from DPKO, OCHA, DPI and OIP. I trust that DPA would arrange the preparation of such a note.
2. In para. 3 of your note, you referred to the usefulness of the occasional briefings with the help of experts on regional issues from the Secretariat. Should we, in this connection, discuss with the President of the Council a possibility that similar briefings would be arranged by the members of the Council who might possess more information regarding a specific problem than the Secretariat? Of course, the modalities of confidentiality of such briefings should be properly addressed by the Secretariat and the Presidency of the Council.

*Thank you.*



S. Iqbal Riza  
11 April 2001



21-06172

**Note to Messrs. Prendergast, Guéhenno and Eckhard**

Working methods of the Security Council

1. Mr. Stephanides' note of 3 April 2001 on this subject has been sent to the Secretary-General's attention. The Security Council report on activities dated 4 April 2001 also provided useful information on the views by the Council's members.

2. I am calling your attention to points A, B, C, D and E that have implications for the work of the different Departments of the Secretariat. I would appreciate receiving your consolidated advice regarding these points and would suggest that an interdepartmental meeting (DPA, DPKO, OCHA, OIP, EOSG) to be held at the earliest opportunity to address issues that have impact on the work of the Secretariat.

S. Iqbal Riza  
9 April 2001

*VG. AB see KP note*  
*S. Iqbal Riza*  
*17/4*

Note to Mr. Riza

**IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WORKING METHODS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL –  
REQUESTS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT**

1. Further improvements to the working methods of the Security Council are certainly welcome and the Secretariat should continue to encourage them. We feel that the request for submission by the Secretariat of fact-sheets containing non-sensitive information in advance of briefings is a good one since it would allow time for the briefers to concentrate on analysis of the situation and a more interactive discussion of the issues. A)

2. I am somewhat doubtful about the suggested short daily briefings by the Secretariat to members of the Council given the limitations under which we are operating and the amount of additional resources that the proposed daily briefings would require. I propose that we explain our constraints to the President of the Council with the reassurance that the Secretariat will unfailingly continue to offer briefings to the members on breaking developments of direct concern to their work. The Secretariat is providing, as you know, a weekly bulletin with brief information on UN field activities. B)

3. I also agree that it would be useful to conduct occasional briefings with the help of experts on regional issues with which members of the Council are not too familiar. An electronic digital map would greatly facilitate more informative briefings but it would require additional resources. Perhaps the cartographic unit could provide an estimate of such needed resources. a)

4. I would favour sharing with the members of the Council advance information from the Secretary-General's Spokesman which is directly relevant to the work of the Council, so long as this is done in a manner that does not compromise the Secretary-General's prerogative on the timing of the release of such information. We will need to hear the views of Mr. Eckhard on this. (I am acutely aware that statements for the noon briefing go through a long chain of drafting and approval, so that they often reach his office only a few minutes beforehand.) c-d)



Kieran Prendergast  
10 April 2001

cc: Mr. Guéhenno  
Mr. Oshima  
Mr. Tharoor  
Mr. Eckhard

21-06172

Note to Mr. Riza

Working methods of the Council

Thank you for sending me the note from Mr. Prendergast. It corresponds to most of the points you have indicated on my note to you of 5 April. I trust that DPA would take the lead in discussing these points with other Departments (please see circulation of Mr. Prendergast's note).

The only point Sir Kieran is not reflecting is the request from China and Jamaica to make the Secretary-General's reports available "as far in advance as possible". The President of the Council has indicated that the best period would be "two to three days prior to a discussion in the Council". This means that draft reports should be submitted to our Office for approval at least 5 to 6 days prior to a discussion in the Council. It will be recalled that Departments usually submit reports for approval at the last moment. (A)

*Vladimir Grachev*

Vladimir Grachev  
10 April 2001

VB Note to KP please.

- would like to receive consolidated views of DPKO, OCHA, DPI (- and Sevan?)
- should we point out to Council members that Sectt. would appreciate info from front sources - usually often more informed than ours.
- how would confidentiality be assured?

(A) do be in reminder to Depts at later stage.  
Dank  
11/11

21-06-17v

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

VB.

Ulockman -

We have to pay attention to the requests/proposals/ideas at A, B & D. (I can't understand C).

Note to KP please - could be advise on these points. (If he calls a meeting, you could join).

Samby  
R/5/11

S. I. Riza

## Note to Mr. Riza

### Working Methods of the Security Council

Following Mr. Stephanides' note on the subject which you have sent to the Secretary-General, please find below a more detailed summary of the discussions in the Council that might be of interest.

The factual part of the Secretariat's briefings should be circulated to Council members. The President should speak with non-members of the Council before addressing the press. The President expressed his intention to brief non-members following his briefings to the press. While he did not discourage Council delegations from also briefing non-Council members on the substance of the informal consultations, the President held that it was in poor taste to attribute statements to Council members. (A)

The United States encouraged the Secretariat to provide information on a more rapid basis. A representative of the Secretariat should be seated daily at the right hand of the President and prepared to brief the Council on recent events. No one wanted the Secretariat to brief the Council for 15-20 minutes. A five-minute presentation would be useful. The US delegation might institute on the Council's daily agenda a "five-minute spot" where the Secretariat would brief on developments in the last 24 hours and if the Secretariat were unable to do so, it could pass on the notes to the President for his briefings. (B)

France and the Russian Federation agreed, provided that the proposed five-minute briefings did not become a point of departure for long discussions. (Mr. Stephanides held that he could envisage the day in which Ambassadors could "subcontract" routine work to their deputies.) It was up to the Presidency to ensure that the updates and feedback did not take too long.

Bangladesh, Jamaica and the United States requested that the Secretariat brief on the press reports. (C)

On press statements, Ukraine highlighted that press statements should be "lightly negotiated" and should consist of no more than three or four brief points. Jamaica requested that the Secretariat inform Council members in advance of issues to be raised at the noon briefing by the Spokesman's Office, as well as press statements by the Secretary-General. The Secretariat would be asked to produce fact sheets in advance of oral briefings. The President, recalling the PowerPoint (electronic digital map) presentation by Canada (D)

expressed his intention to speak with the Secretariat to bring it and the Council "to the modern age".

Jamaica and China asked that reports of the Secretary-General be made available as far in advance as possible. The President held that there was a tradeoff between the timelines and updated nature of the Secretary-General's reports. He held that the best time period was two to three days prior to a discussion in the Council. The President indicated that he had heard comments from some Council members that the Secretary-General's reports were not always what the Council wanted.

Mobile phones should be switched to their "vibrate" mode in the Consultations Room and that phone calls be answered outside the Room. The United States, Bangladesh, China, Colombia, France and Ireland wished to implement the guidelines proposed by the UK Presidency during their Presidencies.



Vladimir Grachev  
5 April 2001



**SECURITY COUNCIL: WORKING METHODS (revised at 1800 on 2 April)**

1. The UK Presidency during April 2001 will try to apply the following guidelines:

- All meetings will start on time. Informal consultations will be scheduled at 1030 (and 1530 if necessary) and will start no more than five minutes late, even if not all delegations are present (the exception would be negotiations on draft decisions of the Council, when all delegations must be present);
- active agenda management is necessary to maximise value for time. The timetable of informal consultations will give an indication of when individual subjects will be discussed. The President asks for the cooperation of colleagues in moving items along. In particular, colleagues are asked to be as brief as possible, not to speak for form's sake only, **not to set out national positions in full where these have not changed since the last discussion**, and to concentrate on operational issues in their interventions. **The Secretariat will be invited to answer questions as they arise;**
- **the Secretariat will be asked to produce fact sheets in advance of oral briefings so that the latter can concentrate on analysis;**
- **delegations that wish to raise issues under other matters should, where possible, notify the Council the previous day so that Council members can arrange for the appropriate experts to be present;**
- the morning session of informal consultations will finish no later than 1315;
- press statements should be lightly negotiated and should consist of no more than three or four brief points for the President to make, unless Council members are aiming for a detailed, substantive presentation;
- the Presidency will aim to chair discussions during informal consultations in as interactive a style as possible;
- in the interests of transparency, as many briefings as possible, if not politically sensitive, will take place in formal meetings in the Council Chamber. For routine items, it might be appropriate to lighten the style of the Presidency's chairmanship in formal meetings;
- draft agendas of formal meetings will generally be read out by the President, and not circulated in writing in the informal consultations, particularly on existing and uncontroversial items;
- the pause between informal consultations and formal meetings to adopt resolutions/Presidential statements will be as short as possible;
- during Council votes, if all 15 members have voted in favour, the President will not ask for negative votes or abstentions.

2. Members of the Council are asked for their cooperation to the fullest extent possible. Nothing in these suggestions affects in any way the right of Council members to take what time they need to fulfil their responsibilities.