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Login Name Souleymane Soukouna



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Item-in-KAA: Disarmament 2001 - DDA - Jan. - Aug.

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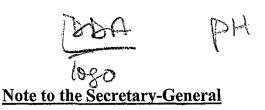
Container S-0074-0001: Office for Disarmament Affairs

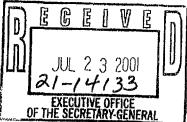
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Fry May 2.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF TOGO

- 1. On 13 July 2001, I met the Minister of Defence of Togo, at his request.
- 2. After reaffirming Togo's support for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Minister indicated that he was bearer of a message from President Eyadema to you. The message, which he asked me to convey to you, concerns the recent developments in the UNDP regional project, the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED). As you know, this project was established in response to the request of the ECOWAS Heads of State for United Nations support in the implementation of the three-year renewable moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa. PCASED is executed by UNOPS and has lately experienced management difficulties.
- 3. The Minister indicated that his Government and a number of others in West Africa had strong reservations about UNDP's decision last April to de-link PCASED from the Regional Centre which, until that date, had ensured the substantive and political direction of the project, in keeping with its disarmament mandate in Africa. He explained that the ECOWAS Council of Ministers that had approved the establishment of PCASED in 1999 had endorsed the Regional Centre as the operational framework for the project activities. Stressing the importance of PCASED to the prospects of practical disarmament and development in West Africa, he urged that a more workable and satisfactory solution be found to address the present situation.
- 4. I would like to explain that following this change in the institutional arrangements of PCASED (about which DDA was unfortunately not consulted), I initiated contacts with the UNDP Administrator with a view to ensuring continued cooperation between DDA and UNDP in the management of this project. PCASED has considerable disarmament and security aspects and it is important for DDA through the Regional Centre in Lome to maintain institutional links. I have been told, informally, that the best ways and means of continuing such cooperation are under consideration within UNDP

Mr. Dangale Maganta Sangara Sharata 1262001

Jayantha Dhanapata
20 July 2001

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