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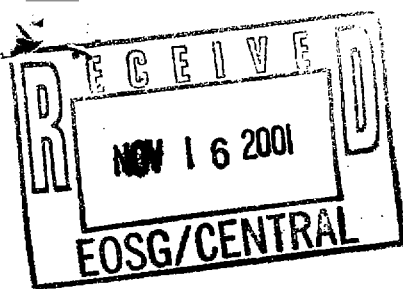
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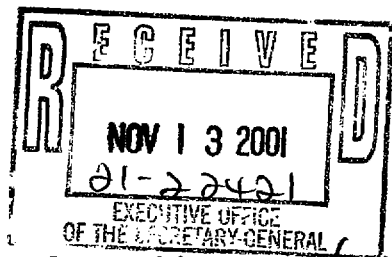
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DPA

J. P. H. / 13/11 PH



Note to the Secretary-General

**Inter-Congolese dialogue:
Informal consultations between the Government and the armed opposition**

1. As you know, the disagreements that emerged at Addis Ababa showed that the Government and the armed opposition did not make much progress on substantive discussions. Despite the promises, there was no follow-up to the meeting held in the margins of the preparatory meeting in Gaborone between Messrs. Kabila, Onusumba (RCD-G), and Bemba (MLC).

2. To encourage the parties to continue negotiations through unofficial channels, I convened a meeting last Friday, in the presence of Mr. Lebatt, between Foreign Minister Okitundu, and Messrs Ruberwa (Secretary-General of the RCD-G) and Kamitatu (Secretary-General of the MLC). The parties reiterated their intention to resume their informal discussions and agreed to meet again on 12 November after consulting with their respective authorities.

3. Yesterday afternoon, I convened the second informal meeting. It lasted three hours and gathered the same representatives, except for the Government, which was represented by Mr. Kamerhe, Deputy General Commissioner for MONUC, instead of Foreign Minister Okitundu who returned back to Kinshasa with President Kabila. The three representatives confirmed that they were mandated by their respective leaders. The Facilitation was represented by Messrs Lebatt, Mogwe, and Tintin.

4. I stressed that the UN informal consultations, which were organized in close consultation with the Facilitator, should not be seen as a substitute to other similar initiatives, but on the contrary as a contribution to efforts to promote understanding among the parties. The parties welcomed the initiative, expressed readiness to renew their confidence in each other, and raised a number of issues. They were of the view that, before the next meeting in South Africa, the three leaders should meet. To better prepare for that meeting, additional informal consultations between officials with the participation of the UN and the Facilitation should take place. The parties also stressed that pending preliminary issues (such as representation) need to be addressed to pave the way for substantive discussions at the dialogue. At the same time, the parties had opposing views regarding the content of the dialogue and expressed their usual positions on the military situation.

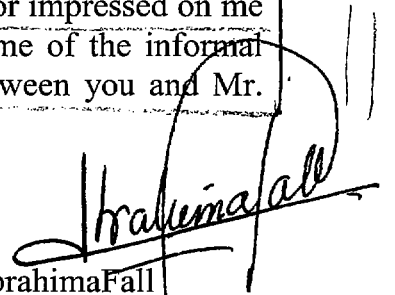
5. The parties were able to reach the following understanding: 1) before the next session of the dialogue, the three leaders should meet sometime between 5 and 15 December in Abuja; 2) the meeting among the three leaders will be preceded a week earlier by an informal meeting of officials, at which both the United Nations and the Facilitation will be represented; 3) the parties will provide us with their views regarding the exact date of the next informal meeting of the three leaders; 4) the parties agreed on

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#11 13 Nov
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an agenda for the next informal meeting which will precede and prepare the meeting of their three leaders. It comprises the following questions: the war situation in the East; the new political dispensation/ transitional institutions; the question of representation and agenda for the dialogue; the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC; elections; the question of withdrawal of foreign forces;

6. In preparation for the next consultations in Abuja, I intend to remain in contact with the parties. Furthermore, the three representatives of the Facilitator impressed on me that I should visit Mr. Masire to brief him thoroughly on the outcome of the informal consultations. I believe, however, that a telephone conversation between you and Mr. Masire on this subject would be a better option.



Ibrahima Fall

Ibrahima Fall
13 November 2001

Mr. Prendergast
Mr. Guéhenno