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Primary Contact

Home Location **S-0043-0007-004 (In Container)**

Assignee **In Container 'S-0043-0007-004 (Stephen Abebreseh)' since 17/11/2006 at 11:**

Priority

Local-container

Owner Location **Archives and Records Management Section**

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Document Details

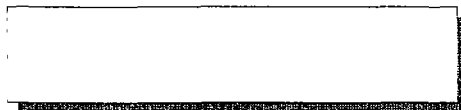
Container **S-0043-0007: DPA - Secco: Reports on Activities**

Notes

Record has no document attached.

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TO: Mr. S. Iqbal Riza
A: Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 7 February 2001

REFERENCE:

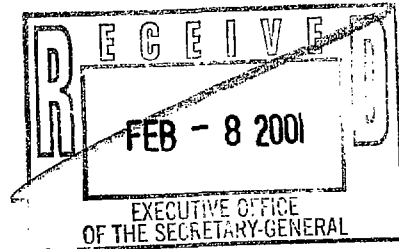
THROUGH:
S/C DE:


Joseph Stephanides, Director
Security Council Affairs Division, DPA

FROM:
DE:

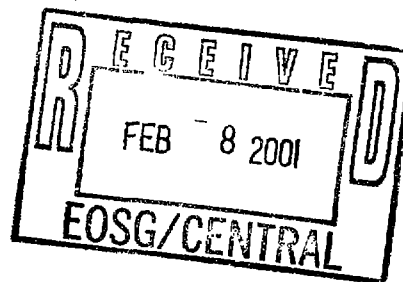
Security Council: Report on activities

SUBJECT:
OBJET:



Attached please find, for the information of the Secretary-General, a note on the proceedings of the Security Council on 7 February 2001.

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. K. Prendergast



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 7 February 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The situation in the Great Lakes region

At its 4273rd meeting, the Security Council heard a briefing by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. In welcoming the President, the Secretary-General pointed out the difficult issues that needed to be addressed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Great Lakes region, namely, governance, national dialogue, democracy, accountability, reconciliation and the continued existence of predatory armed groups. He reiterated his intention to submit a revised concept of operations for the deployment by MONUC in the event that Rwandan forces and their allies withdrew from Pweto, in accordance with the Harare Disengagement Plan. While voicing optimism, the Secretary-General pointed to the challenges ahead and expressed the hope that the resolution of the conflict in the DRC would bring peace to the entire Great Lakes region and, in particular, to Rwanda. He further expressed the hope that the forthcoming summit in the region could focus on the need to re-energize the intra-Congolese dialogue.

President Kagame stated that progress and the efforts of his country in matters of reconstruction and reconciliation were being hampered by the events in the DRC and the region. He indicated that he had discussed with President Joseph Kabila the steps the two countries could take to bring about peace to the region, with the main focus on the implementation of the Lusaka peace process. While assuring Council members of his country's readiness to fulfil its commitments he outlined three core issues that must be addressed in order to have the Lusaka process succeed: (1) the Inter-Congolese dialogue; (2) how the problem of former Rwandan Armed Forces ex-FAR and Interahamwe is handled; and (3) the withdrawal of foreign forces from the DRC. With the addressing of those issues and the desire of President Kabila to realize peace not only in the DRC but also in the region, he stressed, there would be a chance for success. He called on the Council to come to the assistance of the DRC, Rwanda and the region, not only in bringing about peace but also in supporting their socio-economic development.

Noting that President Kabila had, in the Council on 2 February (S/PV.4171) assured the members of his commitment to relaunch the peace process, members of the Council expressed the hope that the "window of opportunity" presented by recent events in the DRC would be seized by the parties to the conflict, and noted the timeliness of the upcoming meeting of the Council with the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, to be held on 21 February. They expressed satisfaction with regard to the meeting that had taken place between Presidents Kagame and Kabila during the previous week in Washington D.C, and expressed the hope that that dialogue would continue.

Members of the Council called on the parties to the conflict to implement the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the Harare Agreement, the Kampala Disengagement Plan and the relevant resolutions of the Council in order for phase 2 MONUC deployment to proceed, and welcomed Rwanda's expressed willingness to withdraw its forces from Pweto. They voiced grave concern with regard to the humanitarian situation in the DRC, particularly in the eastern part of the country, and called on Rwanda to cooperate with the panel of experts established by the Council to look into the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the DRC.

The United States (echoed by Norway) stressed that ex-FAR members and Interahamwe currently under indictment by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda should be brought to justice and others should be provided opportunities for demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR). Ireland, echoed by Norway, noted that while his delegation recognized the security concerns that had led to the presence of Rwandan troops on the territory of the DRC, it was not convinced that those concerns justified the extent of that presence. The United Kingdom posed questions to President Kagame with regard to: 1) his intention to attend the meeting in Lusaka of Heads of State of the region on 12 February, and to continue the dialogue with President Kabila; 2) whether he had instructed his armed forces to respect Congolese property and to refrain from any exploitation of the mineral wealth of the Congo (an issue which, he noted, would be pursued vigorously by the Council); and 3) action taken within his scope of responsibilities for the protection of human rights and towards ensuring that child soldiers were not recruited into military operations carried out by the Rwandan Patriotic Army.

In response, President Kagame noted that many of the issues and concerns raised would be addressed if efforts were focused on the comprehensive implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, rather than diverting attention in a fragmented manner to other issues. By way of example, he noted that some delegations had begun to make a distinction between the withdrawal of invited and uninvited foreign forces, thereby delaying implementation of the Agreement, which had referred to the withdrawal of all foreign forces (Art.III.12 of the Agreement, S/1999/815). He reiterated his Government's commitment to withdrawing its forces in conjunction with the resolution of other problems identified in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

With regard to alleged reports of human rights violations in the eastern DRC, President Kagame maintained that human rights abuses prevailed throughout the DRC as a whole and that he "would not advise the Security Council to discriminate about violations of human rights". He pointed out that the Rwandan forces had been falsely accused of committing human rights violations in Bunia, even though there was not a single Rwandan soldier in that area. He stated that his Government did not hesitate to take legal action against persons within its armed forces responsible for human rights violations.

Turning to the issue of the illegal exploitation of the resources of the DRC, President Kagame requested clarification of the term, positing that it remained a "grey area" in terms of definition. He welcomed the establishment of the Panel of Experts, stating that it would serve the Council well if the Panel were "professional, thorough, objective and non-political in its objectives" and assured the Council of his intention to cooperate with it in its work.

In response to a question (by the United Kingdom) on the ex-FAR and Interahamwe, President Kagame underlined the importance of acknowledging that, in addition to the problem of approximately 15,000 rebels, there existed the issue of Governments turning those numbers into a threat through the supply of arms and training. Recalling the measures taken by the Council with regard to UNITA in Angola, where the Council had taken action against groups who had associated with UNITA, he noted that it had not yet addressed the issue with regards to those who collaborated with the ex-FAR and Interahamwe and expressed hope that they would assist in so doing in the near future.

N. Chan
L. Rickard-Martin
G. Cooper
SCSB/SCAD
7 February 2001

Programme of work

Thursday, 8 February 2001

10.30 a.m.

Consultations of the whole:
ICTY and other matters.