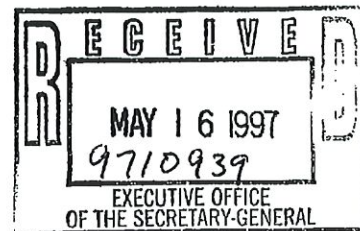


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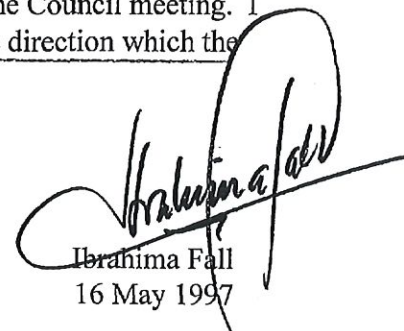
Note to Mr. Iqbal Riza

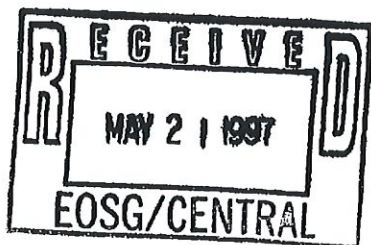


Open meeting of the Security Council

At the consultations of the whole of the Security Council held on 15 May 1997, the members of the Council agreed, on the basis of a proposal of the President of the Security Council (Republic of Korea), to hold an open debate on the agenda item "Protection for Humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations" at 10.30 a.m., on Wednesday, 21 May 1997 in the Security Council Chamber. I am forwarding for your information the discussion paper which the Republic of Korea had circulated to Council members in advance of the consultations. For ease of reference, the Security Council Activities Report of 15 May 1997 is also attached (see page 3).

The Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs, Peace-keeping Operations and Humanitarian Affairs may wish to discuss the matter of representation at the Council meeting. I believe that the question as to the lead department can be deferred until the direction which the Council wishes to take in the matter is known.


Ibrahima Fall
16 May 1997



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Discussion Paper for the Security Council Open Debate
(May 21, 1997)

- In recent years, the international community has seen a number of complex emergencies typically entailing violent conflict and massive population displacement such as refugees and internally displaced persons, which often pose a threat to peace and security, regionally or internationally. In such situations, the international community has sought to create a secure environment for the provision of humanitarian assistance to those civilians in need, sometimes even through the deployment of a peacekeeping force.

But, complex emergencies are often so dangerous, involving intra-state conflict, and non-state military forces, as to endanger the safety and security of those in need as well as humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers for various reasons. Against this backdrop, an open debate of the Security Council is proposed for an in-depth discussion as to how the Council can more effectively address these serious challenges.

- Suggested Agenda item:
 - Protection for Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees and Others in Conflict Situations
- Participants: the Council members, general membership of the UN, the UN Secretariat and the relevant international agencies including the UNHCR
- Indicative list of the topics to be discussed:
 - 1) What the Council can do politically to support international humanitarian operations in conflict situations;
 - how to provide the political guidance of the Council for integrated approaches to such conflicts, taking into account the political, military and humanitarian aspects,
 - when and how to mandate peace-keeping operations to support humanitarian operations, and how to better coordinate them.
 - 2) What else the Council can do to help assist in protecting refugees;
 - how to apply further political pressure (e.g. the imposition of targeted sanctions),
 - how to hold the violations of the international humanitarian law accountable (e.g. how to deal with the culture of impunity).

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