

**The United Nations Mission In Sudan****Date: 18 May 2005****Office of the Spokesperson****PRESS BRIEFING**

Following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's weekly briefing (12:30PM) by Radhia Achouri, Spokesperson for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan:

UNSC

The Security Council held a meeting on 12 May to consider two reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Sudan: the report on the United Nations assistance to the African Union Mission in the Sudan, requested in resolution 1590 (2005), and the report on the situation in Darfur for the months of April.

In the first report, the Secretary-General has recommended a three-phase approach for deploying forces in Darfur, with the first phase, which should be substantially concluded by the end of May 2005, involving an authorized strength of 3,320. The second phase which would entail deployments from June to August 2005, would expand AMIS to 5,887 military personnel and 1,560 police (totalling 7,447), and the final phase would require more than 12,000 military and police personnel to carry out a complex, multidimensional operation. The report indicates that while it would be up to the States members of the African Union to decide on how to proceed, they may conclude that the completion of phase II provides an opportune moment for the wider international community to assume its responsibilities by fielding this larger operation, which would also require a substantial increase in resources.

On the UN assistance to the AU, the report concludes that while AMIS will continue to rely on external support to implement phases I and II described by the African Union-led assessment mission, the assistance UNMIS can provide is limited, because the United Nations Mission will have to focus all of its resources and attention on deploying in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The report indicates that the United Nations and the Mission in the Sudan can assist in the following areas where required and appropriate: identify qualified police personnel in support of completing phase I; assist the African Union to develop a detailed operational plan for the expansion of AMIS; technical advice in the areas of logistics, planning and management; support to training for African Union personnel; support in selecting police personnel for phase II; and support in convening troop contributor and pledging conferences.

The Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement following its consideration of the report-The United Nations Security Council today in which the Council members applauded the African Union (AU) for the peacemaking leadership role it has taken in the troubled

Darfur region of western Sudan, especially its decision to expand its small peacekeeping mission there to over 7,000 persons, and pledged to facilitate aid to the AU. **The text was sent to you and is also available today.**

In the second report on the situation in Darfur during the month of April, the SG has indicated that both the rebel movements and the militias continued to manoeuvre to improve their positions while the peace talks remained stalled. Both sides are, thus, guilty of violating existing agreements and previous resolutions. However, militia attacks are by far the greatest cause of terror and suffering for civilians. While it has been noted that the Government has restrained its forces, it has still not taken action to stop militia attacks and end the climate of impunity that encourages those responsible for ongoing violations.

The Secretary-General urges the Government to make clear its acceptance of all recent resolutions relating to the Sudan and Darfur, and to ensure that a cooperative policy is reflected in word and deed by its officials at all levels.

Events in April demonstrated clearly that, without progress on the political level, the suffering of the civilian population of Darfur will continue. Innocent people will continue to be driven into camps and terrorized into postponing their return. Militia groups will continue to steal, rape and kill with impunity. Rebel movements will continue to fight with whatever capacity they can acquire, be it in violation of the arms embargo, or be it by armed robbery from organizations that have come to aid the very people the rebels claim to represent. The representatives at the next round of talks in Abuja have it in their power to halt this downward spiral which has, over the past two years, caused such tremendous suffering, death and destruction.

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General will co-chair, together with the AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konare, a high-level donors' meeting on the African Union's mission in the Darfur to be held in Addis Ababa on 26 May. Mr. Annan's co-chair at the 26 May meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting is meant to support all of the areas in which the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) is lacking and to try to bring as much international support as possible to end the suffering in Darfur

High level UN delegation visit to Sudan

As you know, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor Lakhdar Brahimi and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno are currently in Sudan. Together with the SRSG Jan Pronk, they undertook a visit to North and South Darfur. In Khartoum, they held meetings with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Al-Tigani Fadhel, followed by a meeting with First Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha and the Ministerial Committee on resolution 1590. USG Guehenno and SRSG Pronk visited also Malakal and Rumbek where they met with John Garang, the Chairman of the SPLM/A. Today, they are in the Nuba Mountains where they are scheduled to meet with the Commander of the Joint Military Commission.

Mr Brahimi is still in Khartoum where he is meeting with Government officials.

Both Mr. Brahimi and Mr. Guehenno are scheduled to depart on 19 May.

On humanitarian issues we have for you today updates from WFP, UNICEF, OCHA (latest Darfur Humanitarian Profile), and WHO as well as UN situation reports issued this week.

The latest we have on humanitarian issues is the following:

We've received preliminary reports, currently under investigation, that today that at 05:00 today Government of Sudan (GOS) police and military (security forces) surrounded Soba Aradi Squatter Area in an attempt to prevent IDPs from leaving the area with the intent of relocating them to El Amal Town, south of Mayo Official IDP Camp. The IDPs resisted and gathered at the bus station. At 09:40 security forces opened fired. The number of casualties is unknown at this time. The situation is ongoing.

The United Nations is deeply concerned by this situation. The UN supports GOS' intent to re-plan identified current locations of displacement. However, the process by which demolitions, relocations and plot allocations are being undertaken constitute human rights violations, including forced return. Every attempt must be made at this time to stop demolitions and relocations, until suitable alternative arrangements (acceptable to the affected IDPs) are made. In all instances, forced relocation must end in the interests of protecting rights and livelihoods and preventing loss of life.

The situation is still ongoing as I have been advised by my colleagues. And we will keep you abreast of any new developments on this situation.

Before giving the floor to my colleague from the military, I would like to tell you that we kept our promise that we made to you in the last briefing we had and our colleagues put together some papers to you in terms of covering issues related to deployment and I hope that you will find these papers useful to you to clarify the picture. Of course we will keep updating you regularly on the status of deployment.

Without any further ado I am giving the floor to my colleague and he will give you the latest in terms of the status of deployment.

Col. Winchester

Thank you very much.

Just to remind everyone, my name is Col. Dickey Winchester and I am from the headquarters of UNMIS.

What we have got is two pieces of paper which we have issued for the briefing and one of them deals with the sort of questions which we would expect from the press, the media. It gives you specific details of what our role is here, what our mission and the ceasefire bodies and mechanism which have been established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

In the second piece of paper which consists of three maps, the first two maps just tell you what is going to happen in the long term. The third map really tells you what is going to happen in the next two weeks. And that is what I am going to concentrate on at the moment.

There are three areas on which we want to concentrate. First of all; in Kassala you will be aware that the Nepalese have arrived and they are now complete in Kassala with 224 troops. Four UN Military Observers will be joining in and that will be followed by a further 12 in a few days. That will give the United Nations an established presence in Kassala province.

The next area of activity is Juba. The first element of equipment of the Bangladeshi engineers will be arriving today in Juba and continue over the last few days. This will be followed by approximately 100 troops who will arrive in about a week. These are all engineers and their role will be to establish the camps for the troops that will be following them.

A third area is Malakal district where the Indian contingent will be based. That is following behind the Juba deployment. So towards the end of the month, you will then begin to see equipment and aircraft flying in to Malakal to deploy the aircraft followed by another 100 troops in early June.

So that is the sequence in which it should flow. In addition, on the map you have certain other information which deals with United Nations Military Observers. These are already in Khartoum under training. 31 of them will be deploying today or tomorrow to various areas around the country. And you will see them establishing an initial presence throughout the country in the various sectors and they will then be built up over the next few months. The figures are contained in the second map you see and those are the total United Nations Military Observers that will be in the country.

You will all understand that the principal role of the UNMIS here is for the monitoring and verification of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and therefore, it is the UN Military Observers on which we will concentrate. Those are the ones who are conducting the monitoring and verification. All the other troops are in support of those and that is why I thought it was important to give you where those Military Observers will be.

Other than that, I hope you find the detail in the written document useful. We will supplement that with anything that you do think you need more information on. And if these require updating, then we will update it.

That is all I have today, thanks very much.

Spokesperson

Thank you very much.

Now the floor is open for questions. I actually forgot to note something: for those of you who are familiar with the United Nations work, you might have heard about the Millennium Declaration. Actually one of the obligations of a member-state is to provide reports on the implementation of that declaration and the achievement of the objectives and the goals of the Millennium Declaration. Apparently, the Sudanese report, the report on the Sudan, on the Millennium Declaration goals will be launched next month, in June – we do not have a date as yet. That report has been put together with the assistance of the UNDP and in order to help you understand what is in that report and to assist you in preparing for a better coverage on the launching of that Report, UNDP is organizing a workshop for the media in order to initiate them to meet the Millennium Declaration Goals. The purpose of this is, hopefully, to have your assistance as media to sensitize the people and also sensitize the public opinion

including donor countries and also the authorities of your country on what will have to be done in the future in order to meet these goals and also to inform your people on what has been achieved so far in meeting those goals set out in the Millennium Declaration particularly when it comes to issues relating to development, eradication of poverty, health and so on, which are actually concrete objectives with actual timetables established in the Millennium Declaration.

So, that is announcement. The workshop at this stage is set to take place on the 25th of this month and most of your editors-in-chief were contacted by phone and, if they didn't, will be receiving shortly invitations to attend that workshop.(later on UNDP informed UNMIS that the workshop has been postponed to the month of June)

This is my last announcement, I hope, and now the floor is open for questions.

Q: You mentioned in your briefing that United Nations assistance to Darfur will be limited. Has the United Nations downplayed the importance of the issue of Darfur such that it is cutting down on assistance to that area? Despite that the African Union delegation and forces are yet to be fully deployed and do not carry out their duties in a proper manner, the United Nations is looking forward to cutting down on assistance. My second question is what will the alternative to assistance to Darfur be since the focus will be on supporting peace in Sudan?

Spokesperson

I think that you did not understand well what I said, sir. The report is in your hands and I had sent through e-mail to you. Anyone may access this report through the UNMIS website.

I never said that the United Nations will cut down on or halt assistance to Darfur as you understand it. What I did say is that UNMIS assistance to the AMIS will be limited. And when we talk of assistance, we talk of financial, technical and logistics assistance in general. You are aware that our primary responsibility as UNMIS is to supervise the operations pertaining to assisting the parties to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The report I mentioned and from which I have read some excerpts specified the areas in which the UNMIS and the United Nations in general could assist the African Union. This does not cover humanitarian assistance. There is a misunderstanding from your part, sir. Humanitarian assistance and all efforts exerted on the ground to confront the humanitarian situation shall continue as is. In the report we are referring to other forms of assistance not related at all to humanitarian issues.

Our confidence in the African Union remains unwavering and is reinforced by the day. I did mention that Secretary-General Koffi Annan will be in Addis to co-chair with Alpha Oumar Konare the meeting of donor states aimed at lobbying financial, logistic and technical support for the African Union to enable the African Union implement its deployment scheme for Darfur.

I do hope that the issue is understood.

On your second question, I think it has been answered in my answer to your first question.

Q: The African Union was supposed to field up to approximately 3,121 personnel. Now they are required to deploy about 8,000. To date, the first phase of their deployment has not been completed which means that the African Union suffers some problems, be they logistical, equipment or technical. Now when the United Nations talks of limited assistance, the way I understand it, to the AMIS while the African Union is specifically suffering from lack of enough financial resources and even lack of technical resources for the AMIS which is its largest mission to date. Do you think that given the resources it currently has, the African Union can deploy enough forces and within the given timeframe?

You talked of the humanitarian situation, the security situation and militia activities. Your report says that despite the fact that the government is exercising restraint, it has not managed to rein in the militias. There is much talk these days on the term, 'militias'. What exactly is meant by the term 'militias' and 'armed groups'?

How can the government rein in militia groups that, to date, have not been named and are yet to be known? To whom are these militias affiliated?

Spokesperson

Please read through the Arabic version of the report. The report does not talk of a halt in United Nations assistance that could be given to the African Union. What the report says is that the assistance that the United Nations may be able to grant the AMIS will be expected to be limited because resources earmarked to us as a mission are to help us carry out our mandate concerning our role in assisting in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The budgets earmarked were set aside based on this mandate and do not contain provisions for financial assistance to the African Union.

This does not mean that the United Nations will completely extricate itself from the issue. The primary influential party engaged in lobbying support to the African Union is the United Nations. The United Nations is the party that contacts the various capitals of states which could be able to assist in logistics, finance and so on, for the African Union. The forthcoming conference in Addis is being held in this context.

True the African Union has faced some difficulties and we as the United Nations have been among the first to point out these difficulties. In all our past reports we did ring all bells that could be rung in order to draw attention to this issue. The international community has expressed confidence in the African Union so that it can be the party charged with handling the issue of Darfur. We supported this choice but also pointed out that the international community must turn their pledges for assistance to the African Union into actual assistance. This is what we continuously do.

Please do not see this as a setback from the United Nations because it is not a setback at all but a way of clarifying the picture. This is because the UN is not only confined to the mission in Sudan. The United Nations is a lot bigger than that and the resources through which it can assist are diverse and you are aware that the United Nations is among the major influential parties that can play a role in order to alleviate the humanitarian challenges in Darfur. The United Nations is also in the front line of all parties that endeavor to assist the African Union.

We do not have financial resources that we can set aside but, as I mentioned in my briefing, areas in which we as the United Nations can assist in through the African Union cover

training of African Union personnel in helping them to lay down plans for deployment, extension of forces, tapping human resources in relation to logistics, planning and operations management and other issues. Our role will also to assist at the African level in order to urge African states to contribute forces and also lobbying support at international levels for resources to back the African Union efforts.

I hope the issue is clear now..

On your question on the militias, this is an issue we have talked on in a number of occasions. Referring you to all the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the first resolution issued by the Security Council laid on the shoulders of the GoS an obligation to bring before a court of law leaders of these militias and end impunity.

Today, when we talk about the militias, we talk of more than one militia group. There are those known as the *Janjaweed* militias, those known as the tribal militias and there may be a third group of recently-formed militias which may not necessarily have a political or ideological agenda and is only a group that comes together for evil designs and to loot, rob property and kill citizens and even humanitarian workers. So there is more than a militia.

Why blame the government? Sir, the GoS is the party responsible for the security of the citizens on Sudanese territory. It represents Sudanese sovereignty. These militias, in the end, are citizens of the state of Sudan. As such, they are subject to the authority of the State of Sudan including the security, judicial and other authorities. It is a legal responsibility acknowledged by International Law that governments are responsible for the behavior of their respective citizens.

Q: I just want to ask about what happened in the Soba IDP camp. To my understanding, those IDPs have been left in the open for at least two weeks without even pit-latrines. The government has demolished their houses although some of them were in shanty houses. I don't know whether any United Nations agency has approached the government or intervened in this.

You said that there were casualties after fire was opened by the security forces this morning and you said that investigations will be carried out to determine the casualties. Who is going to carry out these investigations? Is there any neutral authority that can verify this investigation?

Spokesperson

I said already that our information is preliminary. We do know that the living conditions of this population are quite difficult.

On your question whether the United Nations has contacted the authorities on the issue, yes, the United Nations has done so and contacts still continue. The SRSG Jan Pronk himself has visited the camps on the peripheries of Khartoum and has held talks with GoS officials following these visits and pointed out to them the dangers of what is happening and pointed out that the GoS should provide viable plans for alternative sites for these IDPs and that it should suspend plans to forcibly remove these people without planning for alternative sites or sites where the minimum requirements are guaranteed.

Your last question on the party which may investigate the issue; this is an issue for the Sudanese authorities primarily. From our side as I mentioned before, there is at the moment a team of the UNOCHA on the ground to assess needs for assistance.

This is my answer to your question.

Q: I would like to ask about your comments on the outcome of the Tripoli mini-summit meeting on Darfur.

Don't you view that delegating Col Gadhaffi to contact the parties to the Darfur conflict may affect the Abuja process?

There is a prevailing feeling based on realistic facts that the United Nations is not pleased on the efforts exerted by Gadhaffi. How true is this?

Spokesperson

I will start with your last question. The United Nations has not taken any position that could be understood as if it does not support the efforts of Colonel Gadhaffi. Our position was and remains the following: any effort exerted by any party to bolster the Abuja process is supported by the UN. We do welcome these efforts should they lead to such results and this was and still remains our position.

On our comments on the outcome of the Tripoli mini-summit, you are aware that we were not party to this summit. The United Nations was not invited to the summit and could therefore not give a specific, final or formal comment on the issue. What I can say about the United Nations is that we do welcome the announcement that the Abuja talks will resume at the beginning of next month. We do hope that this announcement will have an effect on the ground.

In our view, the African Union is the party concerned with such initiatives and the question should be addressed to it.

Q: Will Gadhaffi's efforts affect the Abuja process?

Spokesperson

I thought i've answered this question. i'll only add that this question should be asked of the participants to the mini-summit among whom was Mr. Obasanjo who is the current chairman of the African Union.

Q: A spokesperson for the JEM told BBC radio yesterday that the African Union does not protect the civilians. Their reply to any call to put out a conflict that breaks out in the vicinity is that they only came to monitor the ceasefire. Doesn't their mandate cover protection of civilians under threat of danger?

Reports say that some people called them in one occasion when a group of people came in to loot property but the African Union team refused to intervene claiming that they don't have a mandate to do so. What is the mechanism through which they operate? Is their mandate

only confined to monitoring of the ceasefire or do they have the right to intervene to protect citizens?

Spokesperson

Responsibilities of the African Union, as mentioned in the relevant resolutions issued by the African Union and its Peace & Security Council, is monitoring of the ceasefire as a primary and major task. There are some elements relating to protection. When we speak about the African Union and her role in protection, we primarily speak of a preventive role.

Why do we speak of building up of the African Union presence in Darfur? This is because should their numbers be increased significantly to, say 7,000, this will enable the African Union to have a presence in most if not all the areas that host IDP camps and will also enable it to be present even in the other areas outside IDP areas in order protect returnee IDPs on their way to their original or alternate villages. The African Union is currently under great pressure because of limited capacity but it's doing a great job .

I am not aware of the incident you cited. Whenever somebody comes to the African Union to report an incident, reports are sent to the competent Sudanese authorities – the police for instance or any other institution. The primary responsibility for security of citizens is and shall remain the responsibility of the GoS and the institutions of the Sudanese state.

This is what I can say and we do hope that once African Union deployment in Darfur is complete this will reduce by the deterrent effect of such acts.

Kindly direct any further questions to the African Union.

Q: There should have been an agreement between the GoS and the United Nations regulating the functions of the mission in Sudan. Has this agreement been signed?

Spokesperson

No. Not yet.

Q: Because I see the troops are being deployed even before the agreement is signed.

Spokesperson

Once again I would like to refer you to resolution 1590 that pointed out that the agreement between the GoS and UNMIS is yet to be signed. To close this gap, and acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has resolved firstly that the parties hasten to sign the agreement with the UNMIS. Two; until such an agreement is reached, the model SOFA endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 1990 should be applied.

Consequently, the deployment of our forces has and is being carried out based on the model SOFA cited by the Security Council in Resolution 1590.

Q: What prospects are there for signing of this agreement?

Spokesperson

On our side, we are ready and only wait for the GoS to complete what it has to come back to us and do hope that this agreement will be signed as soon as possible.

Q: I just wanted to know what steps is the United Nations taking on the issue of Soba happening now. Have you sent someone there on the site, have you contacted the government to see what they are going to do? Because the situation at the moment is very tense.

Spokesperson

I gave an update or at least information on this situation in Soba. As far as your question is concerned on what we are doing, first of all, there is a team from UNOCHA that has been dispatched to the ground where the situation is taking place and will inform us on what is required in terms of assistance.

So far what we have been hearing is, we heard some information about violence, the situation being tense, and possible casualties and so on. The latest updates that I got was that hundreds of IDPs were fleeing the area and a part of this squatter area appeared to have caught fire and we heard also a piece of information saying that, according to IDP community leaders (because they were more than one saying the same story), that on 10th May the Governor of Khartoum State issued a decree which was read on radio on relocation . We are monitoring the situation on the ground and, as an immediate step and because of the situation that is taking place there, OCHA, contacted ICRC to request immediate medical assistance by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society because, as I said, part of the area caught fire according to the latest information that we have and the NGO that is there and which had a medical clinic has also been removed from the area. So as a first step, we contacted ICRC so it could get the Sudanese Red Crescent on the spot to assist whoever might be injured and so on.

Q: Do you expect anybody to have an update during the day?

Spokesperson

You can call and actually I will give you the full name and contact number of the person to call so you could talk to her straight and she will be feeding you with updates as they evolve during the day.

Q: Can you give us an updates on the prospects of peace talks resuming in Abuja.

Spokesperson

From the African Union itself, we know that they have been shuttling all over the place. They came to Khartoum. They spoke to the highest officials here in Sudan and they were shuttling all around the globe to get hold of the leadership of the two main rebel movements. As far as I know, they actually submitted to the two parties the draft for a road-map for a DoP that, if approved by the parties, would lay the grounds for a political settlement – final, I hope.

That is what I have at the latest. As for the rest, we just heard, as you heard, that in Tripoli it has been announced that the talks will be resumed at the beginning of June. I have to say that we did not see anything official from the African Union confirming the actual date but the African Union is doing whatever it takes to ensure a good preparation. The GoS stated that it is keen on seeing this particular round as being decisive. The African Union is focusing its

efforts on that particular aspect – doing good preparations for the actual round – by first putting together the draft that I told you about, two; by trying to get the highest representation possible by all parties, three; to make sure that whoever comes to the table, particularly from the rebel side, is representative of the movement. That is from the African Union side.

We, in the United Nations, are doing exactly the same in support of the African Union endeavor. We are lobbying exactly for the same purpose. Our main message to parties is to first consider these talks as a decisive one and to act accordingly; two (and particularly to the rebels) to be better organized and to decide on a high representation to the Abuja talks that will make sure that we can proceed in that round of talks seriously, substantially, without the possibility of somebody taking back what somebody else would commit to in the Abuja talks. We are doing that as United Nations officials and also asking other member states to also exert as much pressure as they can to make this happen.

So we keep our fingers crossed.

Q: My question is to the military. We are aware that the timeline set for the deployment of your forces to the six sectors is from March to November, i.e about 8 months. According to your statement, deployment is complete in Kassala Sector, and then Juba Sector and then Malakal are expected to be followed by the other three sectors.

From March to date, two months have already elapsed and this has seen deployment in only one sector. Why the slow rhythm in deployment? Are there obstacles that hamper deployment on the ground?

Col. Winchester

The basic understanding on the deployment is that we will try and establish United Nations forces in every sector initially. So what we aim to do is get a small contribution in each sector. So it is not necessarily sequential moving from sector to sector. Deployment is happening in all sectors at the same time.

However some sectors are not as important as others in terms of logistics concentration. You will be aware that on the logistics side, resources will be very limited and so we have got to concentrate on the most important sectors first which is, as I said, Kassala, Juba and Malakal. Once we have a presence in those sectors we will then concentrate on building up the other sectors and in particular taking over from the JMC in Kadugli when they withdraw at the end of June this year.

So it is not necessarily first of all completing the sectors. For example, Juba will not be complete for another two months. In about two or three months, you will see contributions in all sectors. But that concentration will be in the principal capitals of the areas. So you will see them in Juba town, Malakal, Kassala, Kadugli, Wau and Abyei. From there, we will then spread out further into the other areas in the sectors and the reason for that is very clearly lack of infrastructure in the outlying areas. What we require to do is to build up this infrastructure in the outlying areas in order to support the troops deploying into them, and again I think I mentioned last time that the reason for that is that because the infrastructure is so poor in the outlying areas, we do not want to overburden the local economy and local infrastructure. Therefore, it will take time to build this infrastructure to allow troops to deploy in greater numbers.

I will just end by saying that our aim is to deploy in the same time from March to December and we will complete our deployment in that time. But most of the sectors will have troops in their locations in the next couple of months.

Q: I have noticed that in your deployment schedule there are currently no United Nations forces in any of the areas controlled by the SPLM. Is it because you don't expect there to be sufficient protection in those areas?

Col. Winchester

Initially, as I said, all the deployment will go to the major towns in the sectors. Those deployments will be supported by helicopter. Therefore we mustn't see the extensive UN operations being restricted just to the towns. As soon as the helicopters arrive, the United Nations Military Observers will be flying to all areas within the sectors to conduct the monitoring and verification.

Obviously it is easier once they expand into the outlying areas and set up bases it will be less of a logistic challenge. But initially you mustn't think that just because they are based in the towns they will be restricted to the towns. They will be operating over all the areas they can reach with both helicopter and small aircraft traveling around the area. In each town, of course, the initial deployment will be for example in Juba there will be 50 United Nations Military Observers and 6 helicopters. Those helicopters have a range of about 125 miles – in kilometers it is probably 170 – 180 kilometers. And so you can see that they can deploy to outlying areas and then investigate what they have to investigate and come back and report. In addition to that, we can deploy a force protection if they are going to areas where there has been fighting. The local commander can decide to take some force protection in another helicopter.

So they are not necessarily restricted to the safe areas and they are not restricted to government-held areas and the towns.

Q: How about Rumbek?

Col. Winchester

We will be deploying troops into Wau, initially, and into Juba. Rumbek is one of those locations which will follow after Wau is occupied by troops.

In Rumbek we will have a military presence as liaison. It is an important town in the south in terms of governance and we will have observers in that but only a few initially.

Spokesperson

Thank you very much all and for those who would like to have the phone number of the colleague the number is in front of you.