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The Joint Military Commission hands over its operations in Nuba Mountains to the United Nations Mission in Sudan

Khartoum, 20 May 2005: The Joint Military Commission (JMC) handed over its operations in the Nuba Mountains to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) during a ceremony held today at JMC Headquarters in Tillo. The ceremony was attended by Jan Pronk, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan, UNMIS Force Commander, Major General Fazle Elaki Akbar, and other high UNMIS officials. The Joint Military Commission was represented by Brigadier General Jan Erik Wilhelmsen, Chairman and Head of the JMC and other JMC Officials.

The JMC was established by virtue of an agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in January 2002 and started its operations in the Nuba Mountains in April of the same year. JMC came under the operational control on UNMIS after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM in January 2005, according to the provisions of the comprehensive Peace Agreement. This arrangement was meant to ensure the smooth take over of the JMC sector of operations by UNMIS and to avoid any monitoring vacuum in the area.

The Security Council and the United Nations Secretary-General had consistently praised the performance of the Joint Military Commission which has had successfully fulfilled its mission. Over the duration of its mandate, the JMC has contributed significantly to stabilizing the situation in the area of its operations, including through successful mediation and good offices between the parties involved.

In his speech during the hand-over ceremony, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk, commended the JMC for their professionalism and their outstanding performance. He praised JMC for the full cooperation it extended to UNMIS. He pledged that UNMIS will do its utmost to live up to the legacy that JMC will be leaving behind and to build on it. "That's what the people in Nuba Mountains expect and that's what we promise to deliver" he said.