



**UNMEE PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**BRIEFING NOTES – 20 JANUARY 2005**

**POLITICAL:**

On 12 January 2005, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Legwaila Joseph Legwaila returned to the Mission area.

On 13 January 2005, the SRSG inaugurated the Art Exhibition of Ethiopian and Eritrean children's paintings on peace in Addis Ababa. In his opening remarks, the SRSG, while appealing to the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea to abide by their commitment to the Algiers Peace Agreement, stated that: "what is noticeable in all the children's paintings is the hope they all express for peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea".

On the following day the SRSG, accompanied by PPAO OIC/DOSRSG Leandre Bassole, met with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Lloyd Axworthy who was visiting Ethiopia, and briefed him on the current situation in the peace process.

On 17 January 2005, the SRSG met with the US Ambassador to Ethiopia Mrs. Aurelia E. Brazeal, with whom he exchanged views on the current situation in the peace process.

On the same day, the SRSG met with the Norwegian Church Aid Resident Representative for Ethiopia, Mr. Hans Birkeland with whom he exchanged views on the situation in the peace process.

On 18 January 2005, at the invitation of the Ethiopian Government, the SRSG attended the launching of the Millennium Development Goals report at the Economic Commission for Africa Conference Center in Addis Ababa.

On 17 January 2005, DSRSG Ekaas accompanied by the PPAO OIC/DOSRSG Leandre Bassole, delivered a speech on behalf of the SRSG at the opening of the "Training for peace- Civilian Peacekeeping and Peace-building Course" organized by the Political Affairs Office in cooperation with the African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).

On 19 January the SRSG returned to Asmara from Addis Ababa.

**MILITARY:**

**General Overview**

The general situation in the Mission area remains militarily stable. UNMEE continues to maintain the sanctity of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). UNMEE conducted 606 ground and 27 air reconnaissance patrols throughout the Area of Responsibility (AOR). The 28<sup>th</sup> MCC (Military Coordination Committee) meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005 in Nairobi in a cordial atmosphere, during which matters pertaining to the security situation were discussed. A press release with details of the meeting was issued on Tuesday 18 January 2005 (UNMEE/PIO/PR105)

In all sectors, UNMEE peacekeepers continued to provide medical assistance to the local population, along with supplies of bulk water to civilian communities in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) and the Adjacent Areas. A total of 541 local people were provided with the medical assistance during the past week. Approximately 107,500 litres of water was also supplied to the civilian communities during the week.

### **Mine Action**

During the past week, the Bangladesh Engineering Company, operating in Sector West, proved manually and by mine-detection dog team (MDDT) a total area of 12,000 square meters in the area Shilalo to Sheshbit, 12,000 square meters in the area Adi Tekle to Tri Junction. Sixty-four POMZ-2 mines and six fuses were cleared.

The Kenya Humanitarian Demining Company, also working in Sector West, proved manually a total area of 13,356 square metres in the Tselim Ruso minefield and an area of 9,600 square metres in the Mai Hbey minefield.

In Sector Centre, MECHEM (civilian contractor) continued its de-mining operations and using MDDT cleared a total area of 8.1 kilometers from Shilalo to Badme, and 5.3 kilometers from Adi Hakim to Wodas. In addition, MECHEM de-miners cleared 14.7 kilometers and 576 meters in two locations South of Shilalo and 2 kilometers along the road Shilalo to May Koka. Two Anti-Tank mines and UXOs were found, 2 TM 57 Anti Tank mines and 1 x 82 mm mortar bomb were removed.

### **Meetings And Visits**

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the Force Commander, Major- General Rajender Singh and the Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General A.M. Wambugu attended the handover ceremony of Jorbat 8 and Jorbat 9 in Barentu.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005, an Italian delegation headed by Colonel Claudio Rondano from Italian Ministry of Defense paid a call on the Force Commander. On the same day the Force Commander also met a Jordanian delegation.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the Force Commander left for Nairobi, Kenya for the Military Coordination Commission (MCC) meeting, which he chaired on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005. As noted above the press release of the meeting was issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the US Ambassador to Eritrea Scott De Lisi visited Sector West Headquarters.

During the week, the new Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General A.M. Wambugu visited all three sectors in the Mission area.

## **MACC:**

The Kenyan de-miners of the Peacekeeping Force successfully completed training in using Mine Detection Dogs and mechanical de-mining by the Integrated De-mining Capacity (IDC) of MECHEM. The training was undertaken under the guidance of the MACC Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer. Upon the completion of the training, the team was deployed to the field to continue mine clearance operations.

The MECHEM route clearance team was on leave for the past month. The team returned from leave and deployed to Sector West on Monday 10th January 2005 and has continued with route clearance operations.

The Peacekeeping Force de-mining assets continued to carry out clearance operations in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ), in Sector West. The Force de-mining assets cleared an area of 38,007 square meters and 4 kilometres of road during the reporting period. In addition, the Force de-mining assets and the MACC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team disposed of 16 items of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). The MECHEM route clearance team also cleared one kilometre of road and disposed of two anti-tank mines during this period.

The MACC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team has been deployed to the village of Unanazo in the Tsorona sub zoba, in Sector Center, to investigate the UXO accident that occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The team also disposed of the remaining UXOs in the environs of the accident. So far in 2005, there have been 2 mine/UXO accidents reported in the Temporary Security Zone.

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