

## 24. Letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

### Initial proceedings

#### **Decision of 22 April 1998 (3874th meeting): statement by the President**

By a letter dated 31 March 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council,<sup>1</sup> the representative of Papua New Guinea transmitted a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council, which informed the Council of developments through which the parties to the nine-year-old conflict in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, had met and agreed to a secure and lasting peace by peaceful means. They included a truce, signed in Burnham, New Zealand, on 10 October 1997 (the Burnham Truce), which contained an agreement to invite a neutral regional Truce Monitoring Group to promote and instil public confidence in the peace process and to oversee and monitor implementation of the truce; and the Agreement on Peace, Security and Development on Bougainville, signed at Lincoln, New Zealand, on 23 January 1998 (the Lincoln Agreement), which made clear that the parties to the ceasefire looked to the United Nations to support their efforts to secure a lasting peace by peaceful means. The letter further stated that the United Nations would be sending important and encouraging signals of the support of the international community for peace by accepting the requests of Papua New Guinea, respectively, for Security Council endorsement and for the Secretary-General to send a small observer mission to monitor implementation of the Lincoln Agreement.

At its 3874th meeting, held on 22 April 1998 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the letter in its agenda. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (Japan), with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Papua New Guinea, at his request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

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<sup>1</sup> S/1998/287.

At the same meeting, the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:<sup>2</sup>

The Security Council, taking note of the development of the Bougainville conflict, strongly supports the Agreement on Peace, Security and Development on Bougainville, signed at Lincoln University, New Zealand, on 23 January 1998 (the "Lincoln Agreement"), achieved by the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Bougainville Transitional Government, the Bougainville Resistance Force, the Bougainville Interim Government, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and the Bougainville leaders, with regard to a ceasefire among conflicting parties.

The Council welcomes the extension of the period of truce, and welcomes further a permanent and irrevocable ceasefire which will take effect on 30 April 1998 as stipulated in the Lincoln Agreement.

The Council encourages all parties to cooperate in promoting reconciliation, so that the objectives of the Lincoln Agreement can be met, and urges all parties to continue to cooperate in accordance with the Lincoln Agreement in order to achieve and maintain peace, to renounce the use of armed force and violence, to resolve any differences by consultation, both now and in the future, and to confirm their respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The Council commends the efforts of countries in the region for the resolution of the conflict, and welcomes the establishment, as outlined in the Lincoln Agreement, of the peace-monitoring group composed of civilian and military personnel from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu, the mandate of which is to monitor the implementation of the said Agreement.

The Council notes that the Lincoln Agreement calls for the United Nations to play a role in Bougainville, and requests the Secretary-General to consider the composition and financial modalities of such involvement by the United Nations.

The Council will remain seized of the matter.

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<sup>2</sup> S/PRST/1998/10.