

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

MARCH 2007

PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CHAD

EASTERN CHAD is the theatre for turmoil and ethnic violence. 'This includes ongoing clashes between Government forces and Sudan-based Chadian rebels, cross-border attacks on civilians by Sudan-based militia, the presence of Sudanese rebels on Chadian territory, ethnic violence, internal displacement, inter-communal tensions, and banditry' said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a recent report to the UN Security Council.

The safety of Chadian civilians is threatened by militia groups based in the Sudan who cross into Chad to attack them.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is proposing to send a United Nations peacekeeping force with some 11,000 personnel. The force will be focused on two principal objectives: protecting civilians at risk and deterring cross-border attacks.

A UN deployment is a serious risk. If armed groups see the UN as interfering with their military agenda, they could become hostile and attack.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST GANGS

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL agreed to extend the peacekeeping mission in Haiti through 15 October. The UN is actively campaigning against armed criminal gangs in Haiti.

Gangs are terrorizing the local population, and carrying out kidnappings, thefts, and drug-running activities. Gangs are also forcing children to take part in their operations. Children are used as human shields in confrontations with the police.

Last Month, the UN launched a large-scale operation in the area of Cité Soleil, a neighbourhood in the capital city that included "Jamaica Base", the headquarters of one of the largest gangs. Troops entered the area and dismantled the gang, seizing weaponry and ammunition.

These military operations support the Haitian National Police to restore security in the capital. The Haitian National Police does not have enough qualified officers to carry out all of these operations.

NEW INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE

THE UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION in Kosovo (UNMIK) announced today that a special task force has been created as a result of the recent violence in Pristina on 10 February.

During a violent protest, police allegedly used rubber bullets against demonstrators, resulting in two deaths and numerous injuries.

The new task force will be made up of twenty-four investigators from both Kosovo's local police service and international police. An independent special prosecutor from the United States will head the team. The task force will investigate this incident.

According to the Secretary-General's spokesperson, the UN police commissioner for UNMIK resigned following the incident. He has been temporarily replaced by his deputy Commissioner of Crime until the Secretary-General appoints a new chief.

US TO SHELTER IRAQI REFUGEES

THE UNITED STATES will shelter up to 7,000 Iraqi refugees. Additionally, they have pledged to contribute \$18 million for continued humanitarian aid.

Women, children, the elderly and people with health problems who are forced to flee their homes often seek asylum in a third country. The US will work closely with the UNHCR and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to shelter these refugees. Washington also hopes that neighbouring countries will sustain the principle of first asylum which is that refugees should seek asylum in the first nation in which they're safe.

Resettlement is not a solution for all problems. The international community needs to address refugee problems in their global dimensions.

'Ban Ki-Moon Proposes Peacekeeping Force With Some 11,000 Personnel', *UN Daily News*

www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/23022007.pdf

'Extending Haiti Mission, Security Council Backs Campaign Against Gangs', *UN Daily News*

www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/15022007.pdf

UN-sponsored Talks of Future of Kosovo Off to a 'Good Beginning', *UN Daily News*

www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/21022007.pdf

'UN Official Lauds US Decision to Shelter 7,000 of the Most Vulnerable Iraqi Refugees', *UN Daily News*

www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2007/15022007.pdf

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Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the underlined words in the first column with their closest synonyms in the second column.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. <u>turmoil</u> | a) to give up one's position or office |
| 2. <u>clash</u> | b) to run away from danger |
| 3. <u>allegedly</u> | c) to choose someone to do a particular job |
| 4. <u>resign</u> | d) to possess or take by force |
| 5. <u>appoint</u> | e) to promise or make an agreement |
| 6. <u>dismantle</u> | f) to house and to protect |
| 7. <u>seize</u> | g) according to the statement, accused but not proven |
| 8. <u>pledge</u> | h) a state of excitement or uncontrolled activity |
| 9. <u>flee</u> | i) to take apart or destroy |
| 10. <u>shelter</u> | j) a conflict or dispute |

Task 2: comprehension check

Write short answers to the following questions:

1. What will be the main purpose of the peacekeeping force in Chad?
2. Why is this a dangerous peacekeeping mission?
3. Why did the UN extend the peacekeeping mission in Haiti?
4. What kind of operations are carried out by UN peacekeepers in Haiti?
5. Why was an international task force established in Kosovo?
6. What kind of assistance will be given to Iraqi refugees?

Task 3: discussion

The main theme of this month's Campaign News Digest is United Nations peacekeeping missions in the world. Research a peacekeeping mission of your choice. Be prepared to give a formal presentation about this mission.

Use the following website to help you:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ops.htm>

Task 4: writing

Choose three recent news articles from the UN News Centre. For each news article, take note of the key information. Then use your notes to write a summary in your own words (approximately 100 words each). Remember to answer the questions *Who*, *What*, *When*, *Where* and *Why* in your summary.

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Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the underlined words in the first column with their closest synonyms in the second column.

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Task 2: comprehension check

Write short answers to the following questions:

1. The force is to protect civilians at risk and deter cross-border attacks by Sudan-based militia.
2. If the armed groups think the UN is interfering with their military agenda, they could attack the forces.
3. Haiti's security is threatened by armed gangs and their criminal activities.
4. The military are helping the Haitian Police to fight these armed gangs and restore security.
5. Recently there was a violent protest in Pristina resulting in two deaths. The task force will investigate this incident.
6. Iraqi refugees will receive humanitarian aid and shelter from the US. They will also be granted first asylum.

Task 3: discussion

Ask your students to access the UN Peacekeeping Operations website:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ops.htm>.

They should go to 'Current Operations' where there is a profile for each UN peacekeeping mission. Ask your students to choose a mission and read the 'Background' for that mission (encourage the students to choose different missions). There is quite a lot of reading material, so allow them at least one lesson to become familiar with the mission background.

Instruct your students to research the mission and report their findings in a formal presentation. Advise them to focus most of their research on 'Mandate', which focuses on various peacekeeping tasks carried out on that specific mission. (There is information overload under 'Background').

If necessary, review oral presentation skills before the students organize their presentation.

As an additional discussion exercise, you could organize a general discussion or a debate on the proposal for a UN Standing Army. Divide your students into two groups. The 'pro' group will be asked to defend the idea of a free standing UN Army, while the 'con' group will be asked to oppose it. For background information, you can use this website to help you: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/peacekpg/reform/2006/0615army.htm>.

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Task 4: writing

The aim of the exercise is to develop reporting skills without focusing on any specific report format. Remind your students that a report should be clear and concise, and answer the questions *Who, What, When, Where* and *Why*. Ask your students to go to the UN News Centre website (<http://www.un.org/News/>) and to choose three recent news articles. Instruct your students to identify the key information in the text, make notes, and then use their notes to write a 100-word summary for each article.

To extend this activity, divide your students into groups of six. Ask each group to produce a mock news programme using their news summaries. Suggest including additional news reports for authenticity (e.g. interviews, weather reports and sports updates). Ask one student to act as 'anchorman' and present the news headlines.

Before they present their news reports, you could review some verbal and nonverbal aspects in communication (e.g. modelling posture, gestures, facial expressions, etc.). Alternatively, you could do a lesson on connected speech, or input key lexical features or phrases that we use in the news.

To practise listening skills, you could do this same exercise using recorded news briefs. You can find these short news segments at the UN Radio News site: <http://radio.un.org/>.