



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 December 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations dated 1 December 2014 and the report on the activities of Operation Sangaris in the Central African Republic, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2149 (2014) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon



Annex

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General and has the honour to inform it of the following: pursuant to paragraph 47 of Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), the Permanent Mission transmits herewith the report on the actions undertaken by French forces since 15 September 2014 in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Operation Sangaris

Support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate

[20 November 2014]

Basis of the support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

The Security Council, in its resolution 2149 (2014), authorizes French forces in the Central African Republic, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to take all necessary measures to support the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in the discharge of its mandate.

This support is provided on a daily basis, both in Bangui and elsewhere in the country, at the operational, logistical and medical levels. The Sangaris force, which has drawn on its modern reactive capacities to respond effectively, is gradually shifting to a reserve role that will foster the increasing autonomy of MINUSCA.

Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force

France's operational actions are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions. When faced with situations of abuse and human rights violations, the Sangaris force takes a firm stand. The French troops deployed have received clear instructions: they are to intervene as quickly as possible to end the abuse.

Since 9 December 2013, in the context of confidence-building measures, the Sangaris force has been supporting the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), and subsequently MINUSCA, as from 15 September 2014, by implementing and overseeing measures for the disarmament and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment.

These actions have been carried out jointly in Bangui and the eastern part of the country in order to extend control operations in specific areas to the whole territory. The Sangaris force also supports MINUSCA in protecting populations on a daily basis, not only in Bangui, but also elsewhere in the country, including in Sibut, Bambari, Dekoa and Bria, where the French forces, jointly with MINUSCA, have adopted a deterrent posture in order to end abuses, sometimes through the use of force.

The joint action by the Sangaris force and MINUSCA has greatly contributed to a general improvement in the security situation of the towns and villages under the force's control.

Since humanitarian access is still limited in certain districts of Bangui and remains very difficult in some areas outside the capital, where non-governmental organizations face threats and are subject to multiple taxes (in the northern region, Nana Bakassa and Boguila; in the Cameroon border region; and in the area

surrounding Bambari), the Sangaris force assists MINUSCA in better addressing this need.

Substantive support provided to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Seven French officers have been integrated into MINUSCA headquarters on an ongoing basis. This detachment, commanded by a colonel, liaises with the military and police components of MINUSCA.

In Bangui, a tactical liaison officer provided by the Picardie combined arms battle group (the French battalion assigned to the city) coordinates joint missions with the MINUSCA forces stationed in the capital.

On a daily basis, support to MINUSCA also takes the form of advising on the restructuring of units, the organization of command, planning and the conduct of operations. Military intelligence is shared between the leadership of the two forces. The “J5/U5” planning cells and the “J9/U9” cells meet on a weekly basis.

The French and MINUSCA force commanders regularly interact in a unified manner with the Transitional Authorities and the main actors in order to coordinate their joint actions. The general officers commanding the two forces meet each week.

Patrols and operations are planned and conducted jointly on a regular basis, in Bangui and elsewhere in the country. These joint missions are normally carried out wherever the Sangaris force is deployed, with a view to improving the effectiveness of MINUSCA forces and enabling them to operate autonomously in fulfilling their security mission. Over 70 joint patrols have been carried out since the start of the Mission’s mandate.

The Sangaris force is also increasingly providing response support for operations planned and carried out by MINUSCA. Six fire support operations were conducted in favour of MINUSCA over a period of one and a half months, during which Operation Sangaris used force to enable the withdrawal of MINUSCA troops under attack.

In the area of logistics, France has helped to facilitate the unloading of MINUSCA aircraft at M’Poko airport, Bangui, and has regularly provided fuel support for MINUSCA helicopters operating elsewhere in the country.

France also supports MINUSCA in the deployment of troops to regions outside Bangui, which is currently 80 per cent complete.

Lastly, in terms of medical support, in the past two months, the Sangaris force has conducted five surgeries and provided paramedical assistance in 285 cases for MINUSCA.

Sangaris force activities to assist the internal security forces

Pursuant to its mandate to support MINUSCA, the Sangaris force assists the internal security forces. In Bangui, the battalion responds to requests from the internal security forces for such activities as securing investigation zones or removing or destroying unexploded munitions. Outside the capital, it is involved in expanding and strengthening administrative coverage, which is still weak in the Central African Republic. In the past few months, the internal security forces have,

in particular, been deployed in Boda, Sibut, Grimari and Bambari. No weapons have been transferred to the internal security forces since the previous report (S/2014/663) was published.

The Sangaris force has cooperated with the internal security forces as follows:

- 25 October 2014: patrol in the Bercail district of Bangui jointly with the internal security forces, which had not set foot in the district since the events of December 2013
- 27-29 October 2014: patrol in Bossembele (150 km north-west of Bangui). Joint work with the internal security forces, support for the legitimacy of the local administrative system
- 30 October 2014: Operation Artois: the house of a gang member was searched. While the internal security forces were conducting the search, they were attacked by a large, heavily armed group, which was repelled only as a result of the intervention of the Sangaris force. The internal security forces and MINUSCA suffered no losses; two Sangaris troops were slightly wounded. In assisting the internal security forces to reach safety, the force neutralized 10 of the attackers
- 6-8 November 2014: Damara (100 km north of Bangui): patrol carried out with the internal security forces, which were able to re-establish contact with the local *gendarmes*
- 13 November 2014: Bangui: provided an escort for the internal security forces, at their request, so that they could safely investigate a theft of metal in an area considered dangerous
- 19 November 2014: Kapoué (40 km south-west of Bangui): joint patrol
- 25 November 2014: Bangui, 4th *arrondissement*: support for the recovery of a body and an investigation in a district considered dangerous.