

TO: Mr. Warren Sach, Acting Under-Secretary-General
A: Department of Management

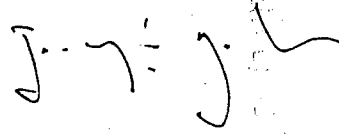
DATE: 4 December 2006

REFERENCE: 2006-UNHQ-076787.02

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General
DE: Department of Peacekeeping Operations



SUBJECT: Initial Logistics Support Arrangements for UN Operations in Darfur in
OBJET: support of both the Light and Heavy Support Packages to AMIS

1. Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), an agreement was reached between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations for a Light Support Package to assist AMIS in continuing their efforts to protect the civilians and internally displaced persons in Darfur. As you are also aware, the provision of a Heavy Support Package to AMIS has now been agreed following Assistant Secretary-General Annabi's visit to Khartoum and Addis Ababa last week and the recent discussions between the Secretary-General, AU and Sudanese Government officials. The UN is now reaching a stage where a team is due to engage in negotiations with the AU to discuss/finalise the details of the Heavy Support Package.

2. Delivery of both the Light and Heavy Support Packages will be logistically very challenging. Both packages will demand the rapid deployment of UN personnel requiring both living and working accommodation. This involves a major engineering effort that is not achievable within UN resources and is also not available locally. For example, this work includes: levelling of ground, construction of prefabricated buildings, use of mechanical handling equipment and the provision of basic services; water (including drilling), sewage and power. There is no in-house solution using either UNMIS resources or any locally contracted commercial company to provide the necessary support in a timely manner.

3. Currently, PAE Government Services contracted by the US State Department provide all camp support to AMIS in Darfur and have deployed significant logistic and engineering capabilities to Darfur to enable them to do this. DPKO has already sought US approval to extend the PAE contract to include support to the UN Light Support Package offered to AMIS. However, it is likely that the US State Department will only agree to sanction the Letter of Assist under which PAE will provide support to the UN for a period of four months. Therefore, it is crucial for the UN to engage PAE directly in order to ensure that they are available to continue to provide the support required and if necessary, expand it to enable the delivery of the Heavy Support Package.

4. The specific area requiring immediate action is the need for an accelerated sole source bidding procedure to be put in place for an engineer and camp management contract between PAE and the UN until the UN is in a position to assume full logistic responsibility in Darfur. Our current estimate is that PAE may, therefore, be required to assist the UN for up to 12 months.

5. In addition to the PAE contract, we will also need to follow the same procedure to outsource a contract management capacity to supervise all aspects of the running of the PAE contract. The second contract will require certified quality assurance and quality control staffing along with a full contract management accountancy package. This facility is required to address the fact the UN will not be able to recruit and form a technically qualified contract supervision and quality management team in the required timeframe.

6. We hereby request your approval to proceed as described above and commence the necessary contractual discussions with the relevant parties concerned.

Enclosure