

The representative of Timor-Leste outlined progress in implementation of the National Development Plan, including in the sectors of agriculture, healthcare and education, adding that negotiations with Australia over the maritime boundaries would commence shortly. Highlighting the cooperation established with Indonesia in key areas, he noted that efforts were made to encourage the

resettlement and facilitate the return of the approximately 26,000 refugees remaining in the camps in West Timor. He concurred with the Secretary-General that Timor-Leste would not be able to achieve self-sufficiency in certain key areas by 20 May 2004, and welcomed the discussion about a credible and strong future United Nations presence.³¹³

³¹³ Ibid., pp. 19-21.

25. The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

Decision of 21 March 2000 (4116th meeting): statement by the President

At its 4115th meeting, on 21 March 2000, the Security Council included in its agenda the interim report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan.¹ The Secretary-General observed, *inter alia*, that the peace process that the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) was set up to support was coming to an end with the holding of the first multi-party parliamentary elections in Tajikistan. He commended the inclusion of former warring parties and others in the electoral process, yet warned that much remained to be done, especially concerning disarmament, reintegration, and democratization. He observed that despite these shortcomings, the parliamentary elections marked the final act in the transition period foreseen under the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. Accordingly, he concluded that UNMOT had been a significant achievement and stated his intention to terminate UNMOT once its mandate expired on 15 May 2000. The Secretary-General also noted that he was currently consulting with the Government of Tajikistan about the establishment of a small United Nations office to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding and consolidation.

At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, following which statements were made by most members of the Council,² as well as the representative of Tajikistan.

¹ S/2000/214, submitted pursuant to resolution 1274 (1999).

² The representatives of Canada and Mali did not make

In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General elaborated on the successful parliamentary elections, but noted some particular shortcomings such as the failure to ensure the independence of the election administration commission, and the fact that the transparency of the electoral process had not met minimum standards.³

In their statements following the briefing, most speakers commended the holding of the first multi-party elections in an atmosphere free of violence, but also noted the deficiencies in the electoral process.

At the 4116th meeting, on 21 March 2000, the President (Bangladesh) made a statement on behalf of the Council,⁴ by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Welcomed the holding on 27 February 2000 of the first multi-party and pluralistic parliamentary election in Tajikistan, and urged the Government and the Parliament of Tajikistan to work towards elections in the future that would meet acceptable standards as a means to consolidate peace;

Supported the intention of the Secretary-General to withdraw UNMOT when its mandate expired on 15 May 2000.

Decision of 12 May 2000 (4141st meeting): statement by the President

At its 4140th meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Council included in its agenda the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan.⁵ The Secretary-General attributed the positive outcome of the peace process in Tajikistan to four main factors:

statements.

³ S/PV.4115, p. 2.

⁴ S/PRST/2000/9.

⁵ S/2000/387, submitted pursuant to resolution 1274 (1999).

first, the involvement of the United Nations from the very beginning of the hostilities in the country; secondly, the strong support of neighbouring States; thirdly, cooperation with other organizations, particularly the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and fourthly, the political will of the two Tajik parties and their leaders to resolve differences through dialogue. Despite classifying UNMOT as a success story of United Nations peacekeeping, he noted the persistence of several problems in Tajikistan: the high amount of people in arms; the fact that the country was used as a transit route for drug-trafficking to Europe; and the precarious situation on the Afghan border. The Secretary-General stated his intention to write to the Council shortly on the possible establishment of a post-conflict peacebuilding office in Tajikistan, with the function of addressing institutional, social and economic development in an integrated manner, in order to consolidate peace and promote democracy.

At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Mission in Tajikistan, following which statements were made by most members of the Council and Austria (on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union⁶), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.⁷

In his briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Mission in Tajikistan elaborated on the report of the Secretary-General. The Special Representative emphasized the need for international economic assistance, without which the viability of the political achievements in Tajikistan could be endangered.⁸

Most speakers welcomed the achievements in the political process in Tajikistan and the successful conclusion of the mandate of UNMOT. While all speakers supported some sort of United Nations role in post-conflict Tajikistan, the representative of the Russian Federation argued that in addition to the

general aim of promoting the post-conflict social and economic rehabilitation of Tajikistan, the mandate of the new office needed to include measures to facilitate the process of reintegrating former combatants into society, demobilization, disarmament, and the return of the remaining refugees.⁹ The representatives of the United Kingdom, Canada and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union) stressed that the office should include a strong human rights capability.¹⁰

The representative of Tajikistan provided a summary of the United Nations involvement in Tajikistan and concluded with the observation that the United Nations could rightfully describe its assistance to Tajikistan in achieving a political settlement to the armed conflict and resolving the humanitarian and socio-economic problems of the country as a peacekeeping success.¹¹

At the 4141st meeting, on 12 May 2000, the President (China) made a statement on behalf of the Council,¹² by which the Council, *inter alia*:

Acknowledged the significant achievement of the Tajik parties, which had managed to overcome many obstacles and to put their country on the path to peace, national reconciliation and democracy;

Joined the Secretary-General in hoping that those achievements would be consolidated in the further strengthening of the institutions in the country with a view to the democratic, economic and social development of Tajik society;

Highly appreciated the efforts of UNMOT, supported by the Contact Group of Guarantor States and International Organizations, the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in assisting the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement;

Reiterated its support for the intention of the Secretary-General to withdraw UNMOT when its mandate expired on 15 May 2000;

Expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his intention to inform the Council about modalities of the establishment and functioning of a post-conflict peacebuilding office of the United Nations in Tajikistan, in order to consolidate peace and promote democracy.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 7 (United Kingdom); p. 8 (Canada); and p. 15 (Portugal).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-14.

¹² S/PRST/2000/9.

⁶ Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia aligned themselves with the statement.

⁷ The representatives of France and the Netherlands did not make statements.

⁸ S/PV.4140, pp. 2-3.