

**Security Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/543
14 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GABON ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As mediator, representing the heads of State designated by the Ouagadougou Summit of December 1996 to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and on behalf of the Inter-African Force to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The disturbances that have been rocking the Central African Republic for many months remain a matter of great concern. The Government of the Central African Republic is unable to maintain law and order, and the security situation is deteriorating and threatens to worsen throughout the country, with disastrous consequences for both the civil population and regional stability.

Mindful of their responsibilities and of their commitments to support efforts to restore and consolidate peace in Central Africa, and in response to a letter dated 27 January 1997 from the President of the Central African Republic, the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon and Mali have decided to set up an inter-African monitoring force.

The mandate of this force named MISAB (which is to help restore peace and security by monitoring the implementation of the agreements signed on 25 January 1997 at Bangui, and to conduct operations to disarm the ex-rebels, the militia and all other unlawfully armed individuals) and its duration (three months from 31 January 1997, renewable at the request of the President of the Central African Republic) were agreed on in a document signed on 6 March 1997. This document also lists the countries providing troops (Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo), describes the structure of the Force (which is to be commanded by a Gabonese officer) and specifies the political authority under which it is to operate (myself, and, on my authority, Gen. Touré, in his capacity as President of the International Committee to monitor the Bangui Agreements). Lastly, it is specified that logistical and financial support for the Force is to be provided by France and/or other contributors of funds.

MISAB has been deployed in Bangui since 8 February 1997 and now consists of approximately 800 men.

In view of the continuing tension and the threat that prolongation of the crisis is likely to constitute for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Governments members of the International Committee and the Governments of the countries participating in the Force wish to have at their disposal, as a legal framework for their intervention, a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, approving the mandate of MISAB and authorizing the intervention.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO
