

FOIA MARKER

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Staff Office-Individual: Staff Director-Soderberg, Nancy				
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Statement on Somalia

Our policy on Somalia has not changed. All Americans were saddened by the deaths of four Servicemen three days ago. But that tragic event has not altered our commitment to the U.N. mission in Somalia to end the humanitarian disaster and allow the political reconstruction there. As our U.N. Ambassador said this morning, these efforts are in America's interests and we are firmly committed to staying the course.

Q. Is the United States reviewing its exit strategy?

A. The United States has been reviewing its over-all policy toward Somalia since the events of June which resulted in the death of Pakistani peacekeepers. Consultations are also underway with the United Nations. Our fundamental commitment to the success of UNOSOM, however, is unchanged.

Q: Will that review recommend early withdrawal from Somalia?

A: The UNOSOM mission in Somalia has as its objectives ending starvation, lowering the level of violence, political reconciliation and economic development. The United Nations has had for some time a general notion of the length of the UN peacekeeping effort, based on achievement of these objectives. The general time frame saw the end of UN peacekeeping in 1995.

Q: Are you saying US forces will remain until 1995?

A: We expect the UN peacekeeping to continue until 1995. US participation is related to that time frame. We have already reduced the number of U.S. forces in Somalia from more than 20,000 at its peak to about 4,000 at present. We do not have a specific date on which the last US forces will withdraw, but our policy has been and remains that the US will gradually draw down its forces. Events on the ground will clearly have some bearing on the withdrawal sequence.

Q: What is our policy on the capture of Aidid?

A. The capture of Aidid is authorized under a UN Security Council resolution as a result of his role in the murder of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. Aidid is a petty warlord in Mogadishu, and we cannot allow him to undermine the important work of UNOSOM Mission in Somalia. But our emphasis remains on the larger issue of feeding people, ending violence, and encouraging political reconciliation and economic development throughout the entire country.

Source: REUTER

Subject : TEXT OF UNITED NATIONS STATEMENT ON SOMALIA@

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^BC-SOMALIA-UN-STATEMENT@

^TEXT OF UNITED NATIONS STATEMENT ON SOMALIA@

UNITED NATIONS, June 11, Reuter - Following is the text of a United Nations statement officially confirming the attacks by U.N. peacekeepers in the Somalia capital of Mogadishu. It was read to the press by Kofi Annan, the U.N. undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping.

``At approximately 4 a.m. local time (Saturday), the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) military force began a decisive action to restore security in Mogadishu.

``It is well known that Somalia has been awash with weapons, creating a climate of general insecurity which first UNITAF (American-led Unified Task Force) and then UNOSOM II tried to rectify. Regrettably, the situation deteriorated and led to unprovoked armed attacks against UNOSOM II personnel on 5 June.

``The action undertaken by UNOSOM II should be seen in the context of the international community's commitment to the national disarmament programme endorsed by all Somali parties. The United Nations is determined to continue working with responsible Somali leaders and factions to eliminate the heavy weapons which have been used to terrorise the Somali people for so long.

``This action has been authorised by the Secretary-General in pursuance of Security Council resolution 837 of 6 June, in particular paragraphs 3 and 5.

``The Security Council also authorised the investigation of the attacks of 5 June and the arrest and detention of those responsible. UNOSOM II is continuing its investigations and will take any measures that might become necessary.

``The intention of the action taken by UNOSOM II is to stabilise a situation which was deteriorating and to enable steps to be taken toward the restoration of normal conditions. It should be kept in mind that UNOSOM II was sent to Somalia to implement the wish of the international community to help the Somali people to rehabilitate their society from the grievous damage it had suffered from internal strife between various factions over the last two years.''

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