



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 22 2007

Dear Senator Feingold:

Thank you for your letter in which you describe the deteriorating security situation in Chad, particularly in the eastern part of the country. We regret the delay in replying to your inquiry

The Department of State shares your concern about growing instability in Chad and its devastating impact on Chadian civilians, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and humanitarian organizations. We also agree that the current situation in Chad has serious implications for the region, particularly in Darfur and the Central African Republic (CAR).

The U.S. Government has publicly and privately encouraged the United Nations (UN) to deploy a robust peacekeeping force to eastern Chad, one that would have both a monitoring and a protection mission. In December, the UN Secretary General reported that the UN technical assessment mission (TAM) deployed to the region could only issue preliminary recommendations because it had not been able to visit all affected areas. In response, we, together with other members of the UN Security Council, urged the TAM to return to eastern Chad immediately to complete its mission, which it expects to do by mid-February. We have urged the UN to begin planning for the peacekeeping mission as soon as possible and have also reached out to potential troop contributing countries to ask for their participation in such a force.

The United States is also engaged on the issue of democracy and good governance in Chad. Secretary Rice and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer have emphasized the importance of democratic reform and good governance in their meetings with Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmat Allam-mi. We coordinate with our European Union, French, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) colleagues on

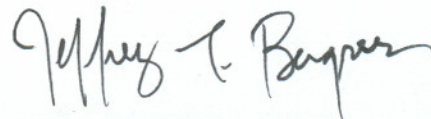
The Honorable
Russell D. Feingold,
United States Senate.

programs to promote electoral reform and have agreed to encourage the government to engage in political dialogue with members of the peaceful opposition. We publicly support the efforts of the international financial institutions to improve government accountability and transparency. Finally, we have supported the establishment of a UN political process to foster peace, as recommended by the UN Secretary General in his December 22, 2006 report to the Security Council.

On the humanitarian front, the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration has been funding refugee, IDP, and host population assistance programs since 2004. Due to the recent surge in violence and internal displacement, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has recently dispatched an assessment team to review humanitarian needs and operations in Chad and CAR. Initial recommendations include urging the UN to appoint a senior-level official to coordinate humanitarian assistance. Once the assessment team returns from CAR, an interagency group will review the final recommendations and determine how to better address the needs of vulnerable populations in the region.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs