

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 18 November 2002 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I wish to refer to the aide-mémoire dated 26 August 2002 from the Government of Papua New Guinea and the letter dated 28 August 2002 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Rabbie Namaliu (see annexes),* both addressed to me, providing information on the role of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville and requesting an extension of its mandate for another year.

During the past year, steady progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. We would expect the peace process to be completed in the course of next year. The United Nations Political Office in Bougainville has played a central role in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and all sides agree that its continued presence on the island is essential. This was reaffirmed at the meeting of the Peace Process Consultative Committee held at Arawa on 30 October 2002.

It would therefore be my intention to extend the mandate of the Office, which expires 31 December 2002, for a further 12 months in order to assist the parties to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

* The annexes are circulated in the language of submission only.