

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 22 August 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you are aware, on 20 June the Democratic Republic of the Congo effectively entered the electoral phase of its transitional process following the launch of voter registration in the capital, Kinshasa. The registration of eligible voters in Kinshasa, which closed on 31 July with a total of over 2.9 million registered, marked the first step of the nationwide registration programme, which will be progressively extended to all of the provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the coming weeks.

Given the size of the country and the lack of infrastructure over large areas where voter registration and polling activities are scheduled to take place, the Independent Electoral Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has asked the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to assist with the transportation of electoral material and equipment to voter registration centres and future polling sites throughout the country.

However, as registration activities progress, the Commission and MONUC are stretched to their limit as they face the multiple demands of opening and servicing thousands of isolated voter registration sites. In this connection, I understand that the members of the Security Council have reached an agreement in principle to approve the recommendation contained in my special report of 26 May 2005 on elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2005/320) to furnish MONUC with the resources required to allow it to provide logistical support to the Congolese electoral process.

In view of the urgency of this requirement and in order to ensure the successful completion of ongoing registration activities in time for the 27 November deadline for the holding of the constitutional referendum, it is my intention to begin immediately to provide logistical support to the electoral process, pending the consideration and approval by the Council of my recommendations.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan