

Peace Agreements and cessation of hostilities in the Pool Region

Brazzaville, March 16-17, 2003

1) The commitments of “pasteur Ntoumi” “I, the undersigned Reverend Pasteur Ntoumi, President of the National Council of Resistance (CNR), hereby confirm the provisions of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 16 November at Pointe-Noire and 29 December 1999, in Brazzaville.

Hence, I undertake to end the hostilities, to collect the arms held by the ex-combatants in order to return them to the relevant authorised commission, and not to create any hindrance to the re-establishment of State authority in the Pool Region, to the free circulation of people and goods in the Pool Region, to the redeployment of government forces in the Pool Region and to the completion of the electoral process in the Pool Region.

In addition I undertake to contribute to the consolidation of peace and security in the Pool Region, in particular by making information germane to this process available to the monitoring committee.

In return, the government undertakes to guarantee: the provisions of the law of amnesty no 21/99 of 20 December 1999, granting amnesty for acts of war during the civil wars of 1993-94, 1997-98 and extended to cover the events of 29 March 2002; the security and the professional and socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants, in particular by their recruitment in the government forces, availability of posts permitting and with due regard to the relevant criteria, with career soldiers being returned to their respective units of origin with the possibility of assignment to Defence Zone 8; the integration of representatives of ex-combatants in the Monitoring Committee for the Congo Peace and Reconstruction Convention, around which five commissions specialising in peace in Pool will be established, to ensure implementation of the agreements cited above, and complying with the structure of this committee.”

Done in Brazzaville, 16 March 2003. For the Reverend Pasteur Ntoumi, and by order: Daniel Mahoulouba, representative of the delegation to Brazzaville, and Doctor Gozardio, personal representative.”

2) The commitments of the government “ I, the undersigned Isidore Mvouba, Minister of State, Minister of Transport and Privatisation, responsible for the coordination of government activity, acting in the name of and on account of the government and its Head, Denis Sassou Nguesso, in accordance with the provisions of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities agreements signed on 16 November at Pointe-Noire and 29 December 1999, in Brazzaville, as well as the law of amnesty no 21/99 of 20 December 1999, granting amnesty for acts of war during the civil wars of 1993-94, 1997-98 and extended to cover the events of 29 March 2002.

Hence, I undertake in the name of the president of the republic to guarantee the security and the professional and socio-economic reinsertion of the ex-combatants, and from this day onwards to end hostilities and to return all weapons to the relevant authorised commission.

I undertake, from today, to recruit the ex-combatants to the government forces, within the limits of the available resources provided by the government and with due regard to the relevant criteria, career soldiers will be made available to their units of origin with the possibility of assignment to Defence Zone 8.

Finally I undertake to integrate representatives of the ex-combatants in the Monitoring Committee for the Congo Peace and Reconstruction Convention, within which a commission specialising in peace in Pool will be established, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the agreements cited above, and in accordance with the structure of this committee.

In return, the ex-combatants undertake not to create any hindrance to the re-establishment of State authority in the Pool Region, to the free circulation of people and goods in the Pool Region, to the redeployment of government forces in the Pool Region and to the completion of the electoral process in the Pool Region, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the agreements cited above, which they confirm to acknowledge and respect.”

Done in Brazzaville, 17 March 2003: Isidore Mvouba.

Source: Congopage.com, March 19, 2003