

July 29, 2003

## Security Council Beefs Up Force in Congo and Broadens Mandate

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS, July 28 — After weeks of anxious negotiations, the Security Council adopted a resolution today extending the United Nations mission in Congo for a year while stiffening its mandate and strengthening the force to 10,800 troops from 8,700.

The resolution, which passed unanimously, also imposes a yearlong arms embargo on all foreign and Congolese armed groups in the resource-rich eastern part of the country.

The 2,100 additional troops authorized today will replace the French-led emergency force that landed last month in Bunia, in the Ituri region of northeastern Congo, after savage fighting between rival ethnic militias killed hundreds. Some on the Security Council fear the carnage will resume after the international force leaves on Sept. 1.

The United States had resisted calls by Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary general, for a larger, more robust force, arguing that only a change in political will would make a difference. The United States finally relented during President Bush's visit to Africa earlier this month.

The conflict in Congo began in 1998, but since a 1999 cease-fire most of the bloodshed has been confined to its eastern region.

"We've been lucky to get the multinational force to go in to try and contain the situation and stop the killing and allow humanitarian assistance to go through," Mr. Annan said after today's vote. "With this resolution, we will be able to send an expanded force into Ituri just before the multinational force withdraws."

Under the resolution, peacekeepers will be allowed to "take all necessary measures" to protect United Nations personnel and facilities, as well as civilians and humanitarian workers "under imminent threat of physical violence," and to help improve security so that humanitarian aid can be provided.

Under the previous mandate, United Nations forces were allowed to fire only in self-defense. The resolution passed today allows the United Nations troops, like the departing French-led force, "to use all necessary means" to fulfill its mandate in Bunia and in the Ituri district, as well as in the violence-prone provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu.

Peacekeepers from South Africa have already been deployed, the secretary general said, and additional troops are anticipated from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

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