



EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL
CANBERRA



Mrs. Marise Ann Payne
Senator
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
The Senate – Australia

Canberra, 29.06.07

Dear Mrs. Payne,

Subject: Inquiry into Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations

Thank you very much for your letter dated 23 May 2007 concerning the Australian Senate's Inquiry into Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations.

Please find enclosed our contribution on this subject, just received from the Portuguese Authorities.

I hope that the contribution of Portugal will be useful to the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



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PORTUGAL AND PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Contributions for Australia's PKO inquiry

1. The Portuguese Republic Constitution defines the purview of the Armed Forces. The National Defence and Armed Forces Law also states the limits for the involvement of the Armed Forces in accordance with the international Law and other international commitments to which Portugal is signatory. Also, as a direct consequence of the constitutional framework, the Armed Forces contribute to actions in support of national foreign policy, specifically for crisis management, peace support and humanitarian operations. The new "*Strategic Concept Of National Defense*" – adopted in 2003 – shows the importance of the national participation in multilateral environment.
2. It is responsibility of the national Joint War College to develop peacekeeping concepts. Training and development of peacekeeping procedures is responsibility of the *Army Support Operations Training Centre*. The Air Force and the Navy do have a role in specific areas, as well.
3. Lessons Learned. Peacekeeping and crisis management missions have become an important element of international security. Follow the 15 years national experience in PKO we appoint some lessons learned in order to improve some deficiencies that arose during the operations:
 - The mission **mandate should be clear and concise**, and allow the determination of both rules of engagement precisely defined and of areas of operation. The mandate should be accepted by all the contesting parties.
 - It would be advisable to develop a more structured involvement of "**troop-contributing nations**" in the process of formulation of the mandates.
 - **A common effort** from all components of the operation, as well as cooperation among all relevant bodies in the field, should be achieved from the beginning of the mission. A chain of command and clear command and control arrangements should also be defined and agreed before the deployment.

- **Pre-deployment** orientation training ensures that the troops realize that their role as peacekeepers differs from the one as combat forces. It is also important to make them understand the organization structure and objectives of the mission as well as its difficulties.
- **Relations** with the native population are important to the success of the mission. In this field, the Portuguese forces have played an important part, developing relations with the locals on a neutral basis.
- should be very close cooperation between the military and civilian police components of the operation. Moreover, the military should not be given police tasks for which they are not prepared.
- **Countries neighbouring** areas of crisis play an important role in peacekeeping operations, other than serving as zones of transit for mission personnel as well as accommodation areas to refugees.
- The existence in "troop-contributing nations" of a **INTEL cell** is relevant to the support of their missions.

4. The national participation in PKO started in the first half of "92". From then more than 10000 soldiers and several means have supported UN, NATO, EU and OSCE missions.