

SCENARIO:
VISIT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT,
MR. OLARA OTUNNU

The UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG)

Delegation consists of:

UnderSecretary and SRSG, Mr. Olara Otunnu

SRSG Programme Officer, Mr. Moncef Khane

The purpose of their visit is to solicit Canadian support for the Office of the SRSG, and to seek your views on his proposed mandate.

This note contains a list of points to register at each meeting, which are shorter versions of the talking points contained at the end of each brief. The briefs are arranged to reflect the schedule of your meetings including detailed talking points for your meeting.

09h15: Meeting with SRSG delegation in your office, Rm. 418-N, Centre Block

AGP/Carmen Sorger will escort the SRSG delegation to your office. Mr. Paul Heinbecker will also attend. The informal meeting will provide a good occasion to register that Canada is a strong supporter of the SRSG and register that Canada intends to offer more than just moral support to his mandate by actively pursuing funding for his Office in the new fiscal year.

During this conversation, you may want to register four principal points: (i) the role of SRSG as an advocate on behalf of children; (ii) the creation of mechanisms within the UN system; (iii) the importance of tackling the appalling plight of child soldiers (broadly defined); and (iv) the Optional Protocol and Canada's support of the NGO Coalition.

POINTS TO REGISTER:

- * WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH YOUR APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT.
- * MY GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN TO BE A PRIORITY BOTH IN CANADA AND ABROAD. MINISTER MARLEAU AND I, AND OUR OTHER CABINET COLLEAGUES ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH YOU AND OTHER CORE COUNTRIES TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEX AND HEINOUS SITUATION OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ARMED CONFLICT.