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From our special envoy in Savalou (République Bleue)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARRIVE IN THE TRIBORDER AREA

The concerns expressed by the international community about peace and security in the Tri-border area could prove to be true and the fears stated by International and Non Governmental organizations are on the way to become real.

Yesterday, Mrs Denise LaJoy, a Canadian ICRC representative arrived in Savalou with 6 IO workers. She said that she was in charge of installing a permanent ICRC bureau in Savalou. Joy's mission being to assess the situation in the tri-border area and to plan for emergency situation should that situation worsens. When questioned about ICRC presence in Yellow, LaJoy said that her counterpart should arrive in Porto-Novo within the next few weeks.

It was unsaid but obvious that ICRC is now present in the region to get ready for the emergency situation that everybody has feared for the last year or so: a massive displacement of persons from the tri-border area, southward.

As matter of fact, troop movements have been noticed last week in the region north of Abomey: the 1st mechanized battalion (pride of the country) could be reinforcing the position it had organized in the region North of Djidja (15 km north of Abomey).

Although the government spokesman has claimed that there was no coordination with Yellow, it seems strange that the Mechanized movement on the main road bordering Yellow had not provoked any official Yellow reaction.

UNHCR main office in Geneva has announced that within a few days they would send a representative to Abomey where he would install a field office.