

## PRESENTATION OF THE "RECAMP 4" TRAINING CYCLE

Peace, the primary prerequisite for Africa's development, is a major concern for us all. Achieving peace requires three complementary approaches : conflict prevention-tackling all possible causes of conflict, crisis management when crises have already broken out, and post-crisis management once peace has been reached. As the inception of the African union, the launch of NEPAD and the growing role of the continent's subregional organisations demonstrate, African countries themselves are keen to develop a renewed, efficient peacekeeping capability. This aspiration confirms the validity of the reflection that began several years ago at the United Nations, at the instigation of the UN secretary-general in particular, on ways to enhance Africa's peacekeeping capabilities.

The RECAMP concept (in French, "RECAMP" stands for "reinforcement of African peacekeeping capabilities") is France's contribution to this debate and these efforts. It provides a framework for implementing concrete actions to help those African countries wishing to prepare themselves to take part in peacekeeping operations. For France, in close association with the United Nations and its partners in the European Union and the G8, this means helping Africa to achieve the ambitious objectives it has set itself for peacekeeping. The action undertaken relate to the training and commitment of troops.

For the training component, exercises in designing, planning and conducting peacekeeping operations are organised every two years in a multilateral and subregional framework, on the basis of a fictitious crisis scenario. After GUIDIMAKHA in 1998, GABON in 2000 and TANZANITE in 2002, the fourth exercise, RECAMP IV, designed for ECOWAS, is particularly relevant in the light of recent events in west Africa. ECOWAS is involved throughout the cycle, which contributes to the operational training of ECOWAS personnel at strategic, operative and tactical level.

The RECAMP IV cycle will be held throughout 2004, partly in Ghana and Benin, and will comprise three main sequences :

- a politico-military seminar in Ghana next May,
- a strategic conference in June at ECOWAS, in charge of the operational planning of the planning of the exercise crisis,
- a field exercise called "Benin 2004" to be held in Benin at the end of the year.

As the previous cycles have shown, the success of this type of operation depends both on the participation of states and the active presence of highly qualified persons representing the international organisations, institutions and agencies directly concerned by peacekeeping and stability in Africa. The aim is to reflect as realistically as possible the features of current peacekeeping operations (their multinational framework, UN or regional, African or European, and humanitarian and civilian/military aspects) to raise participants' awareness of peacekeeping issues.

The seminar is the first key meeting of RECAMP IV and will address the essential issues of peacekeeping in Africa through the chosen crisis scenario. The aim is for participants to work together (African diplomats and military personnel with key actors in crisis management in Africa) with a view to developing strategies for action to deal with the various problems raised by the crisis scenario.

## Annex : details about the political component of the seminar

### I. THE POLITICO-MILITARY SEMINAR

The RECAMP IV cycle is organised around a scenario of a fictitious regional crisis involving three countries and stemming from the presence of an irredentist grey zone, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and a worsening humanitarian and security situation in the region. The participants in the different stages of the cycle will be asked to define and implement a coordinated response at the level of the subregion including the formation and deployment of an African peacekeeping force under a UN mandate.

The politico-military seminar is the first major meeting of the RECAMP IV cycle. It will be divided into two components :

- a political component, which will run from 0900 AM on Monday 24 May 2004 to 0230 PM on Wednesday 26 May. This component will assemble representatives of ECOWAS and of its 15 member states, diplomats and military personnel, and representatives of the other African subregional organisations, non-African countries, and international experts from the United Nations, the European Union and other International and Non-Governmental Organisations.

- a military component, which will extend from 26 May to 28 May and which will assemble the military representatives of ECOWAS and its 15 member states. The aim of this component is the drafting of an initial planning guidance directive, reflecting the military leaders' consideration of the political objectives assigned to them by the diplomats during the first component of the seminar.

### II. THE POLITICAL COMPONENT OF THE POLITICO-MILITARY SEMINAR

The objective of this diplomatic component of the seminar is to outline the political guidelines for the military exercise, which will serve as a basis for the drafting of a fictitious draft Security Council Resolution and the adoption by the “ECOWAS defence commission” of the initial planning directive. After listening to the international experts' presentations on the major peacekeeping issues in Africa on the first day, the African and non-African diplomats and military personnel, together with international experts, will propose strategies for action to deal with the various problems raised by the crisis scenario in specialised working committees on the second day. On the basis of these proposals, a fictitious draft resolution will be presented at the end of the political component on the third day. The resolution will serve as a guide for the military component of the seminar.