



**Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations**
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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Under-Secretary-General of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations and, referring to the Security Council Resolution 1509 authorising the establishment of a United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and to the request of the Secretariat of the United Nations (dated 03 October 2003 DPKO/MIL/OMA/2003-222) to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to consider the provision of a Landing Platform Dock (LPD) to UNMIL, has the honour to inform the Secretary General as follows.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has decided to provide the LPD HMS Rotterdam to UNMIL. This contribution is offered under the following conditions:

- The HMS Rotterdam will perform the tasks specified below for a maximum of 3 months, starting from the date of 'transfer of authority' to DPKO by the Chief of Defence of the Netherlands.
- The Force Commander of UNMIL - through DPKO - will be granted tactical command in accordance with the NATO-definition in AAP-6. Operational command will remain with the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For co-ordination, a liaison officer/team at the Force Commanders Headquarters will be established. The Dutch officer in charge of the liaison team will also perform the duties of Senior National Representative.
- The HMS Rotterdam will provide medical care for UN-military units/personnel only. To perform this task the HMS Rotterdam has a fully equipped surgical team on board. This team, with supporting medical personnel, will operate on the vessel and cannot be deployed on shore. Medical care will be provided until UN-units have established their own medical care or the Force Commander releases the HMS Rotterdam from this task.
- Since most helicopters are not certified to land on the HMS Rotterdam, only the embarked Lynx-helicopters can be used for the transportation of stabilised casualties by air. For this task the helicopters will be stationed on board. Casualties will only be transported from the UN-secured landing zones in the vicinity of the ports where the HMS Rotterdam is present. The Lynx- helicopters will not be used in MEDEVAC-role for the remainder of/ whole or parts of/ the UNMIL area of operations.

- Referring to letter DPKO/MIL/OMA/2003-222 and prior communication with DPKO (through the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the United Nations) the HMS Rotterdam will transport UN military equipment, vehicles and troops . Transportation will take place between the ports of Monrovia, Buchanan, Harper and Freetown (Sierra Leone). If transportation from or to other ports is required, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall be consulted.
- Although this task will only be performed if required, provision has been made to produce and transport fresh water from ship to shore. Transportation on land shall be provided by the United Nations.

In relation to the contribution, it is the Netherlands' understanding that:

- costs shall be reimbursed on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Letters of Assist to be concluded between the United Nations and the Netherlands;
- the Netherlands Government will receive the same information as the members of the Security Council and will be able to make its views known to the Security Council regarding the situation in Liberia during the 3-month period of deployment.
- in the event that the mandate or the circumstances in situ should change, the Netherlands Government will reconsider its participation.

The Military Advisor of the Netherlands Mission to the United Nations will communicate to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations the specifics (composition and assets) of the Dutch contribution.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands would appreciate receiving confirmation that its above-mentioned offer to contribute an LPD to UNMIL, on the conditions mentioned, is acceptable.

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of his highest consideration.

New York, November 17, 2003

The Under-Secretary-General of Peacekeeping Operations
of the United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017