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The Department of Peacekeeping Operations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus, and has the honour to refer to its Notes Verbales dated 28 February 2011 and 2 March 2011. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations welcomes the assurances provided by the Permanent Mission of Belarus that the Republic of Belarus fully complies with its international obligations regarding embargoes against any state, including Côte d'Ivoire, and that, following detailed verification by all concerned agencies and organizations of Belarus, the information on the alleged deliveries of helicopters and associated materials to Côte d'Ivoire is groundless.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations regrets that it did not seek and obtain these assurances from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus prior to the statement that it provided to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for issuance.

Subsequent efforts by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the Group of Experts established pursuant to Security Council 1946 (2010) were unable to substantiate the information previously received concerning a flight which reportedly landed on the evening of 27 February 2011 at Yamoussoukro airport.

The mistake in the reporting was clearly unintentional. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations deeply regrets and offers its sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused to the Government of the Republic of Belarus in this regard.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will take further steps to enhance its interaction with Member States in their efforts to implement the sanctions regime imposed on Côte d'Ivoire, and to continue to work towards a resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration. *MUR*

2 March 2011