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[signed] LALLEMAND & LEGROS

Mr Bontinck
02 647 8396

LOUIS MICHEL
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.07.2008
KD/yw S(08)249

Dear Pierre,

In response to your request that I give my personal impression of Jean-Pierre Bemba, I can confirm to you that, on the basis of the dealings that I have had with him in the course of my mediation to promote peace in the DRC, I can say the following:

- 1) Each time I approached him about moderating his positions and showing flexibility in order to reconcile viewpoints, he responded positively.
- 2) When I questioned him in 2003 concerning rumours of various acts of violence allegedly committed by members of his troop, he was immediately willing to set up a commission of inquiry and seek the support of the UN to ensure the neutrality of the inquiry.
- 3) More recently, after the presidential and legislative elections in the DRC, I asked to meet with him in order to persuade him to act henceforth in the framework of a democratic opposition that respects the legitimacy of the institutions. On that occasion, he agreed to draft a letter that was transmitted to the Foreign Ministers of the European Union and to the major partners in the international community, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he committed himself to leading a constructive opposition and to refraining from any military or armed initiatives and from any statement which might lead to an escalation of the violence. He even expressed his willingness to give the elected majority sufficient time to allow it to implement its plan. He gave me the genuine impression that he had permanently embraced the role of an opposition leader who respects the institutions of a constitutional State.
- 4) My feeling is that he is eager to respect the ICC and, it seems to me, does not intend to elude in any way whatsoever the proper judgment of the Court.

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Best wishes,

[signed]
Louis Michel

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Official Court Translation

Waterloo, 17 July 2008

Serge KUBLA
Mayor of Waterloo
Member of Parliament
Former Minister

Mr Claude BONTINCK
Lawyer
Rue Defacqz 78/6
1060 BRUSSELS

Dear Sir,

I can gladly confirm to you that I have known Mr Jean-Pierre GOMBO BEMBA, who has long been active in Congolese politics, for many years.

I met Mr BEMBA on several occasions in Belgium, where he has family connections, since his wife and children live here. I also met him in his capacity as Vice-President of the Republic of the Congo and Senator, while I myself was Minister of Foreign Trade in the government of Wallonia.

Following peace conferences held, *inter alia*, in Sun City, and having been a candidate in the presidential elections in the Congo, Mr BEMBA has been committed to the process of democratic opposition to the incumbent government.

I feel that, since the negotiation of the Sun City agreements, he has devoted himself fully to setting up a democratic system of government in the Congo, and is recognised there as the uncontested leader of the opposition.

In this context, I have difficulty imagining that he might in any way attempt to elude his responsibilities in view of the proceedings instituted against him by the International Criminal Court, which would ruin his entire reputation.

I gladly permit you to cite this document, which represents a strictly personal viewpoint, but of which I wished to inform you.

Yours truly,

[signed]
Serge KUBLA

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