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PRESS RELEASE

SRSG MEETS ECOWAS ENVOYS

Abidjan, 28 December 2010.... The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, met on Tuesday with the presidents of Benin, Yayi Boni, Cape Verde, Pedro Pires, and Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, who arrived in Abidjan with a message from the extraordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held on 24 December in Abuja, Nigeria.

The UNOCI chief briefed them on the electoral process, which is in an impasse since the announcement of the result of the second round of the presidential poll, held on 28 November 2010.

In a communiqué that capped its last summit on Côte d'Ivoire, ECOWAS, like the rest of the international community, had recognized the victory of President Alassane Ouattara and asked President Laurent Gbagbo to hand over power to him. In this perspective, the sub-regional body sent the delegation of three heads of state to try and find a peaceful solution to the current political impasse, failing which ECOWAS could envisage a military intervention.

The UNOCI chief had made a presentation on the Ivorian electoral process at an extraordinary ECOWAS summit on 7 December 2010 in Abuja. On that occasion, he had explained that certification methodology that had permitted him to conclude that Mr. Ouattara had won the poll.

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