



UNPOL

Flash

GENERAL PASCAL CHAMPION : HUMAN, ALL TOO HUMAN.

General Pascal Champion leaves no one indifferent. This General of the French Gendarmerie has headed the MONUSCO Police component for two years. He is known for his rigour at work, his dynamism, his clairvoyance and most especially his “elephant” memory which enabled him to recall all instructions given, despite his numerous duties. He has earned a good reputation for the MONUSCO Police Component through his numerous initiatives. He made sure that UNPOLs are given the consideration they deserve. To quote Nietzsche, Human, he is perhaps all too human, with his qualities and also his “tactlessness”, to quote the man himself.



PIO/UNPOL: Good day, General. What are your feelings at a time that you are preparing to leave the MONUSCO Police Component?

POLICE COMMISSIONER: There is first of all a feeling of incompleteness. I would have loved to do much more for the population of Congo, their Police and the United Nations.

There is also a feeling of profound gratitude. I have received much from individual Police Officers (UNPOLs) from Formed Police units, from personnel of the United Nations Organisation, from Congolese and from the Congolese National Police (PNC).

It is also worth mentioning amongst other things that despite my worries, I am full of hope for the future of this country. Congolese are very gifted and talented people and surely solutions shall be found.

PIO/UNPOL: Why has elections security been your priority ever since the

publication of the electoral calendar?

POLICE COMMISSIONER: There are two main reasons. On the one hand, elections always harbor a likelihood of violence. The United Nations has the obligation to work at its best to avoid victims and to protect civilians.

On the other hand, in every country, the Police must always be ready before violence starts. We have to act now to ensure that the PNC are able to save lives, property in a professional manner respecting Human Rights principles.

In 2006 we registered over 300 deaths. In 2011, over 100. Each human life that is lost is a tragedy, but the PNC contributed to this amelioration. Are we going to have more victims in the next two years than in 2006 or less than in 2011?

In this regard, UNPOL has to do its best in support of the host-state police.

PIO/UNPOL: What is your appraisal of your privileged partner, the Congolese National Police, after two years of close collaboration?

POLICE COMMISSIONER: The PNC has numerous needs and still has a lot to do in order to meet the aspirations of the population. The challenges are multiple and gigantic.

The PNC is making progress every year. As a result of the particularly difficult context, I admire this progress which is often not recognized and quickly forgotten.

At various levels of the PNC, I have seen intelligent, and talented officers full of ambition to attain higher levels of professionalism.

PIO/UNPOL: Do you have any regrets? If yes, which and why?

POLICE COMMISSIONER: I might have blundered. I probably must have taken some unjust decisions. I regret this while hoping that nothing irreparable was done.

I regret leaving the Congo and leaving MONUSCO. However, it was necessary. I regret because my motivation to accomplish the mandate has been on the increase each passing month, as well as my attachment to Congolese, UNPOLs and the United Nations family.

PIO/UNPOL: Any final word?

Police commissioner: Hope.....

But if you permit two, I would say we should love.



WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT HIM...

Colonel Tabasky DIOUF, Deputy Police Commissioner:



General Pascal CHAMPION who took over as MONUSCO Police Commissioner on 7th January 2014 is the third Police Commissioner under whom I am serving in the United Nations.

Though at his first United Nations Mission experience, he made a difference by his quick adaptation; his will to increase the visibility of UN police; his concern that all members of the component should understand that any useful work should contribute to positive impact on the population and/or our partner (PNC); his command style characterized by decision making based on prior consultation and analysis of all possible opinions; his constant search for the amelioration of the quality of human resources and to march positions with competences; the consolidation of the headquarters staff motivated principally by his wish to obtain a proper work division, a greater efficiency of the HQ organs and a capacity building of "leaders" in order that they can intervene at a high level in the treatment of top priorities/issues of the Mission; his computer

mastery and his ability to summarize that enabled him to send out messages at an unrivaled speed; his commitment to safeguard the primacy of the component's interests while showing proof of remarkable efficiency in taking into account the problems faced by Police Officers under his command and his interest for African culture.

Building on the work of his predecessors, he has been able to reinforce the credibility of the Police Component within MONUSCO and our PNC partners through achievements which will forever remain engraved in the functioning and organization of MONUSCO Police.

DSP Martin LANYUY, Head of the Strategic Planning Unit:



General Pascal CHAMPION is the fourth Police Commissioner I have served with. I was deployed in MONUSCO in July 2005 and after six months of field experience, I was redeployed to the Headquarters where I have served successively as Reporting Officer, Head of Information and Documentation Unit, Head of Internal Investigations Unit, Chief of Staff, Planning Officer, OIC Police Commissioner and Head of the Strategic Planning Unit. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the respective Police Commissioners for the confidence bestowed in my humble person.

That said, General Pascal CHAMPION arrived the Mission Area at a time when Security Council Resolution 2098 (2013) had recommended its reconfiguration and further authorized the deployment of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB). He therefore has gone through challenges unknown to his predecessors. Just to name a few General Pascal CHAMPION amongst other achievements worked tooth and nail to:

- ensure that UNPOL provided and continues to provide full support to the implementation of Islands of Stability (IoS);
- enable the PNC take over security responsibilities in areas freed from armed groups through joint FARDC-United Nations Force operations within the scope of a well-defined mission strategy that can be summarized in these terms: SHAPE, CLEAR, HOLD, and BUILD;
- enhance MONUSCO support to the PNC as they prepare to ensure the organization of a hitch-free electoral process without undue loss of human lives and property, establishing the inseparable link between electoral violence and Protection of Civilians (POC) challenges;

Thanks to his vision and clairvoyance, a special strategy dubbed "SOLIB" was put in place in Beni town to secure the population and property following the launching of operations against the ADF rebel group. This strategy is quoted today as a model in the peacekeeping world, and has been presented to the Security Council of the United Nations in New York. Though much still has to be done in this very complex Mission, at the time General CHAMPION is leaving MONUSCO, he should be happy and proud for having brought his contribution to the building of lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He will be remembered by many for his rigorous management style but more so his unmeasured ergo for tangible results in mandate implementation. In his Front Office, he will be remembered for the detailed nature of his instructions but also his open mindedness, and humane managerial style. I personally wish him every success in his future professional engagements. MONUSCO was his way-in into the United Nations system, it is my fervent wish that, like many other peacekeepers, he should attain higher heights within in order to continue to share his wealth of experience in the interest of global peace.

General AWACHANGO UMIYA Vital, PNC North Kivu Provincial Commander:



I would like to join my voice to that of the entire UNPOL to bear testimony of the good work of this General and his commitment to support the Congolese National Police in its mission of protection of persons and property. This man with a new vision for a real MONUSCO support and participation through UNPOL in the protection of the Congolese population, author of "yes for the security of MONUSCO Personnel, but better still, the protection of the Congolese population in crime-prone areas. Personally, I am the most fortunate Provincial Commander, because I benefitted from the contribution of General Pascal directly as a result of the presence of the second Headquarters of MONUSCO in Goma.

General, you are going, but you are and will remain in our hearts. Thank you.



TAMSIR Diakite, Chief of Operations:

The memories that I keep of General Pascal CHAMPION after two years spent with us are first those of a cultured man, eager to learn African traditions and a high capacity of adaptation. During his break time under the shed opposite his Lake Kivu side office, he loved discussing and marveling over some aspects of African tradition, and more especially on poetry. This aspect of his personality is often either forgotten or drowned by his passion for work that he raised to the rank of a vocation, his rigour. General Pascal CHAMPION is a literary person, full of knowledge in the arts and letters, and this stroke me very much.

He will also be remembered as a hypersensitive person, who despite his rank, did not hesitate to ask for forgiveness (orally or written), when after a meeting he realized that he hurt a collaborator, and who accepted the opinions of all those who were able to convince him, irrespective of rank. This is a sign of greatness.

From the professional perspective, he has impressed me by his capacity to recall all his instructions, deadlines set, and by his capacity to listen and retain: ADF/Nalu, FDLR, LRA, security of electoral process, fight against charcoal exploitation, UAVs, SOLIB evaluation, HQ staff consolidation, etc. He showed better mastery of these issues than the focal points in charge of their follow-up activities.

It will go down in history that there was once a great man at the head of MONUSCO Police who made progress in terms of capacity building of the Congolese National Police ,United Nations Individual Police Officers, operational support and logistics.

Finally, I will forever remember his humility and generosity towards me. During his leave in Paris, he spent time in bookshops to get a gift for me which I will pass on to my children with the instruction that they keep it properly, because it was given to me by a French General who personally wrote the following in it: "For my brother Tamsir, the life of this man whom I love much, well read and poet who filled me with joy one evening during.."IHUSI SMT". Not forgetting the everyday joy of working with him". General Pascal CHAMPION". He offered me the "COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHIE OF VICTOR HUGO" by ALAIN DECAUX of the French Academy. A master-piece.

I will never stop thanking him.

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA, Goma Chief of Sector:



At a time when the Police Commissioner is preparing to leave the Mission finally, it is my honour to pay him this rousing homage.

Difficult to talk about General Pascal CHAMPION as his personal qualities are numerous! Endowed with proven managerial competence, he is also humble with unparalleled magnanimity.

In two years, he has contributed immensely to render Individual Police Officers and Formed Police Units more efficient. His constant commitment has led to the building of confidence between MONUSCO and the Congolese National Police, and this is certainly an asset for the concretization of the police reform.

General CHAMPION has undoubtedly developed empathy for Congolese. He has never missed an occasion to remind us that we are here to assist Congolese, and that we should do this with all the respect and abnegation.

He is of that category of men who leave their footprints. He has left an indelible mark at the head of UNPOL. MONUSCO is losing a competent staff, committed, innovative and hardworking who has not left any collaborator indifferent.

May God protect him and grant him longevity in the accomplishment of new missions that will certainly be entrusted on him within the United Nations system.

Farewell General.

ALIMA Coulibaly, UN Security:



General Pascal Champion is one of those professionals serving with the United Nations system who makes a difference. In his capacity as MONUSCO Police Commissioner, I had the opportunity to work on a daily basis under his supervision from January 2014 to May 2015. I will remember him for his humane character in the discharge of his duties, his relationship with colleagues and partners.

Rigorous, meticulous and endowed with proven professionalism. There are several in the UN system, men and women full of talents who master their jobs, but what is peculiar with General Pascal Champion is his transcending propensity to put the human being at the center of his actions. He is an altruist in the strict sense of the word, who always wants to carry out his duties in line with the rules and selfless devotion. Sometimes, human interest and the respect of rules can conflict in the course of executing our mission. It is here that the genius comes in, and General Pascal Champion has always had that genius to overcome such difficulties in order to achieve harmony and goals.

He is not someone who surrenders and has always encouraged us to move forward.

Very observant, he is able to detect that someone had a bad night. This is because he cares for the wellbeing of his collaborators. How many supervisors care about the peace of their collaborators and ready to address the least of their personal problems? I had the opportunity to benefit from the exceptional bounty of this kind-hearted man.

General Champion is not only a boss, but a real manager who instilled a new dynamism in human relations in the MONUSCO Police Component. Once every month, he invited his close collaborators for diner in what came to be christened "SMT IHUSI". These convivial moments were an occasion to break off from professional constraints in favour of a more family get together for informal discussions and jokes. This has contributed a great deal in strengthening relations amongst colleagues and giving fresh impetus for individual output.

In conclusion, General Pascal Champion is a great chief, a father and a guardian angel. I will never stop thanking him for all what I learned from him professionally and for what he did to me humanely.





God willing,
we shall be meeting again