

SCRIPT DUTCH FRIGATE SOMALI WATERS

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To protect food transportvessels of the World Food Programme. in the coastal waters of Somalia against pirates.

That's what the Dutch navy did for three months earlier this year.

Pirates hijack the ships in order to get ransom for its crew.

Millions of people in Somalia like that risk loosing their dire needed food help.

These vessels recently are escorted by marine vessels.

The Netherlands are doing the job after the French and the Danish did it.

The Dutch frigate Evertsen departed from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

BETA

SOUNDBITE HELICOPTER

The Dutch frigate here is escorting a ship of the World Food Programme.

In these waters the last two years some 25 ships of the WFP were hijacked.

The captain is very happy with the escort.

QUOTE ABDULAHI COLOMIE, kapitein

We are afraid of pirates.

Maybe they will come with an army and kill our people and our crew.

There are 16 sailors on board,

and in the cargo bay there is 2,500 metric tons of beans.

If pirates show themselves,

the Evertsen is mandated to stop them by force.

On the food vessels there are marines on guard,

and the frigate has this 127 mm gun

these harpoons to fire at enemy vessels,

and this helicopter to do patrols.

SOUNDBITE FLY BY HELICOPTER

But attacking is only allowed when WFP vessels are under threat.

They have to let go pirates who attack other ships.

QUOTE ROB KRAMER, kapitein Jan Evertsen

- Isn' that a pity?

No, it's in line with our mandate, and that's what we're doing.

But most probably it will never occur.
Not a single pirate is to be seen.
That's not amazing when you see this coming up.
It would almost call for some more action,
but the crew is okay with it.
Like Sergeant Mike, who's face has to remain secret.

QUOTE SERGEANT MIKE

***You can feel that the crew feels safe because we're on board.
The famine in Somalia is so bad that I'm very happy that I can do something about it.***

SOUNDBITE HORN

The ship reaches Mogadishu three days later safely.
It's Friday, so the porters are still with the Islamic prayers.
In the city it's very obvious that a fight has been going for decades.
Many buildings are destroyed.
Streets are empty because the inhabitants have fled.
Who remained tries to make something of the day.

QUOTE MOHAMED AHMED

***No Somali no good.
Because more people died, don't have life,
don't have jobs, no peace.***

The unloading of the cargo will take three days.