

Turkey  
Congratulations

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30 August 2007

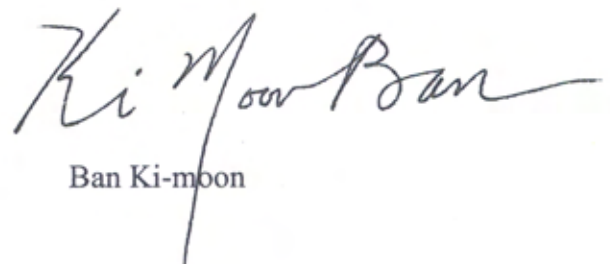
Excellency,

I should like to extend to you my warm congratulations upon your election as President of the Republic of Turkey. I wish you every success in carrying out your important responsibilities.

It was a pleasure to meet with you in your previous capacity in February of this year. As you played an important and constructive role as Foreign Minister, I trust that you will continue to lead Turkey on the path towards modernity, stability and prosperity.

I look forward to working with you in your new capacity to address issues of mutual interest and concern, including the Alliance of Civilizations. I am confident that under your Presidency Turkey will continue to support the aims and principles of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Abdullah Gül  
President of the Republic of Turkey  
Ankara

27-10860

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

30 August 2007

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the attached letter to His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "V. Nambiar".

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency  
Mr. Baki İlkin  
Permanent Representative of Turkey  
to the United Nations  
New York

United Nations



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Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

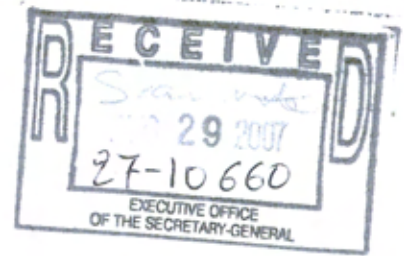
To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your approval and the  
SG's signature a congratulatory letter to H.E. Mr.  
Abdulla Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey.

  
Nicholas Haysom  
30 August 2007

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo

27-10660

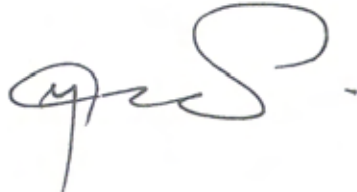


Note to Mr. Nambiar

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER TO  
THE NEW PRESIDENT OF TURKEY**

Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, a letter of congratulations addressed to the newly elected President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gül. Please note that President Gül, who previously served as Foreign Minister, was sworn in on 28 August.

A transmittal letter to the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, for your signature, is also attached.

for B. Lynn Pascoe  
29 August 2007 

Cc: Mr. Menkerios  
Ms. Kane  
Ms. Vaccari

Gul Elected President by Turkish Parliament, Defying Secular  
Military's  
Complaints

Ellen Knickmeyer

Source: Washington Post

Date: August 28, 2007

CAIRO, Egypt — Abdullah Gul, a devout Muslim with roots in political Islam, won parliamentary election Tuesday as Turkey's president in defiance of the country's secular generals.

Turkey's military, which has overthrown six previous governments in the country's history, issued a statement warning on the eve of the parliamentary vote against "furtive plans which aim to undo the modern advances and ruin the Turkish republic's secular and democratic structure."

But the government of Gul's Justice and Development Party is broadly popular in Turkey, credited by many for boosting public services, limiting corruption and helping to bring Turkey to what many economists say is the greatest prosperity in its history. The prosperity is likely to protect the government from any immediate moves against it by the military.

Gul took the oath of office in parliament without his wife, Hayrunisa, by his side. Her customary wearing of an Islamic head scarf has become a flash point for secularists.

"Turkey is a secular democracy ... these are basic values of our republic and I will defend and strengthen these values," Gul pledged in a speech to parliament after taking his oath. A secular opposition party boycotted the event, and small numbers of protesters outside parliament waved posters showing Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the general who put modern Turkey on the secular path in the early 20th century.

Turkey's military intervened in April to block an attempt then to win Gul's parliamentary election to the presidency. Generals posted a



statement on the military's Web site interpreted as a strong warning against Gul's candidacy, leading the country's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Justice and Development Party, to call early parliamentary elections last month to try to increase the party's strength.

Turkish voters strongly backed the Justice and Development Party in the July elections, increasing its power in parliament in what was widely seen as a rebuke to the military for interfering.

The Justice and Development Party has stressed business and social services far more than Islamic goals in its six years in power.

Its ascendance follows elections elsewhere in the region that have increased the political strength of Islamic parties, including the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Hamas in the Palestinian territories.

In Palestinian territories and especially in Egypt, however, the votes for the Islamic parties were widely seen as protest votes against local authoritarian systems. The Justice and Development Party's success with voters is seen as an endorsement of the orderlyway it has brought inflation in check, boosted the economy and increased social services.

Special correspondent Zehra Ayman contributed to this report from Istanbul<I>.

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:SUBJECT: TURK EGYPT

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Received By NewsEDGE/LAN:Tue Aug 28 16:10:09 2007