



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Global Compact
UK

23 March 2007

Dear Sir Peter,

I write to you on behalf of the Secretary-General to thank you for your letter to him dated 7 March 2007. Your support is very much appreciated, in particular your interest in expanding the relationship between the United Nations and the business community, the further development of which is very important to the Organization.

The United Nations has already convened a high-level board with significant business participation under the auspices of the United Nations Global Compact. The board, whose membership includes Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, among others, offers strategic advice on the further development of the Global Compact and, through it, of the United Nations relationship with the business community.

It is evident that the work you have been doing with the BAC is ever more relevant to the United Nations. To that end, I would encourage you to contact the Executive Head of the Global Compact Office, Georg Kell, to discuss opportunities for advancing your agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Asha-Rose Migiro

The Honourable
Sir Peter Tapsell, M.P.
House of Commons
London



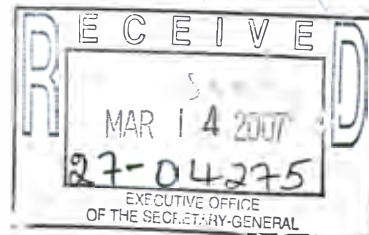
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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
760 United Nations Plaza
New York 10017
USA



7th March 2007

Dear Secretary-General,

I was so glad to read of your appointment. It is a long time since we had a Secretary-General from Asia. I have met many of your predecessors, including Dag Hammarskjöld who I was privileged to meet when I was a very young Member of Parliament.

You will see from my attached biographical details taken from the UK Parliamentary website, that I have had a very long career in the British House of Commons, stretching over nearly 50 years and that as an international financier I have advised many Central Banks and Governments on the management of their foreign exchange reserves.

I served on the Business Advisory Council of UNOPS, which had an international membership of distinguished businessmen entirely on an honorary basis, and attended several meetings of it chaired by Mr Dana Mead, who had been appointed by the then Secretary-General, as a part of the Agenda for Reform of the United Nations Group.

Since 2002 there have been no meetings of BAC; it seems to have lapsed.

I am writing this letter to you to suggest that a fresh initiative might be taken by you to form a new body with an updated agenda. Such a group should, as previously, be drawn from people with a wide international business experience, including the developing world.

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The agenda would address issues facing the United Nations such as accountability, transparency, efficiency, the identification of potentially corrupt arrangements, and any areas of public business criticism calculated to undermine the prestige and authority of the United Nations.

The membership of a new Business Advisory Council should be as limited in numbers as the international nature of the UN permits, and have powers to appoint an executive sub-committee of about seven to deal with emergency problems arising between meetings of the full Council.

I would be very ready to visit you in New York to discuss this matter.

I should be grateful for your response at the above address. (The email address of my Personal Assistant is sd@hofc.demon.co.uk.)

With best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,
Peter Refell

PEOPLE

Sir Peter Tapsell MP

Member of Parliament for Louth & Horncastle

ABOUT SIR PETER



Sir Peter was born in Sussex in 1930. He was educated on scholarships at Tonbridge School and Merton College, Oxford where he graduated with First Class Honours in Modern History and a Diploma in Economics. He was Librarian (Vice-President) of the Oxford Union, and represented the Union on a debating tour of the United States in 1954.

From 1948-50 he served as a subaltern with the Royal Sussex Regiment in the Middle East. Between school and Army he worked in the Tanganyika Groundnuts Scheme. He is a Life Member of 6th Squadron RAF and has studied warfare in Kenya, Cyprus, the Congo and Vietnam. He was a member of the Trilateral Commission (from 1978 to 1998) and was financial adviser to the former Sultan of Brunei who made him a Dato (Malayan Knight). He has been Chairman of the British-Caribbean Association. He worked at the Conservative Research Department from 1954 to 1957 and was Chairman of the Coningsby Club from 1957 to 1958.

He was a member of the London Stock Exchange from 1957 to 1990 and was for 30 years the International Partner of a leading firm of stockbrokers. He has visited more than 120 countries and has considerable knowledge of the Islamic world. He has advised many Governments and Central Banks on the management of international reserves, and is a member of the Business Advisory Council of the United Nations.

Sir Peter's Experience

Sir Peter, first elected in 1959, is the longest serving Conservative MP in the House of Commons. At the age of 27, he was defeated in a by-election at Wednesbury (Staffs) in February 1957. He won West Nottingham from Labour in 1959 by 164 votes but lost the seat in 1964. He represented Horncastle (Lincs.) from 1966-83 and, following redistribution, East Lindsey (Lincs) until 1997, when he won the seat of Louth and Horncastle in May 1997, with a majority of 6,900. In 2001, he was one of only five sitting Conservative MPs to increase his share of the vote by more than five per cent.

Sir Peter was a Frontbench Spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1976-77) and on Treasury and Economic Affairs (1977-78). During the 1955 General Election Campaign he served as a personal assistant to Sir Anthony Eden, the then Prime Minister.

Sir Peter is an Honorary Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and a Council Member of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. He is Deputy Chairman of the Mitsubishi Trust Oxford Foundation, Vice-President of the Tennyson Society and a member of The Athenaeum.

He was knighted in 1985. The Political Editors voted him *The Spectator* 'Backbencher of the Year' in 1993 and 'Parliamentarian of the Year' in 2004.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 2006 (8 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

DEBATE ON AN INQUIRY INTO THE IRAQ WAR

Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth and Horncastle) (Con): The invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq was, in my view, a strategic, political and humanitarian blunder of historic magnitude. It was a strategic blunder because the traditional aim of British foreign policy over the centuries, the maintenance of a balance of power in each region where we have a national interest, has been destroyed in the middle east. It rested on the balancing of the triangular animosities of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran—respectively secular, Sunni and Shi'a—each hostile to the other two. That is why when Iraq invaded Iran in the 1980s, and it looked as though Iran would win the war, Britain and the United States gave much support to Saddam Hussein, despite his being already a proven warmonger abroad and a murderous tyrant at home.

The major beneficiary of the overthrow of Saddam and his secular tyranny has been Shi'a, theocratic, nuclear Iran, a far greater threat to western interests today than Saddam was in 2003, with his by then non-existent weapons of mass destruction—the excuse for the invasion so shamefully advanced in the House by our Prime Minister, to his everlasting disgrace. I did not believe him then, and I voted against the invasion.

The occupation of Iraq by foreigners has made Iran the most potent political force in the middle east, as Hezbollah recently demonstrated in Lebanon, so the neo-cons, who had long been plotting an attack on Iraq, in the event achieved nothing for Israel, and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are more than ever fearful of Iran.

The invasion was a political blunder because the attack on Iraq divided the United Nations, divided NATO, divided the European Union, inflamed Islamic opinion against Britain at home and abroad, constrained British diplomatic influence and commercial success in the middle east and beyond, increased the influence of President Putin's Russia, weakened the world economy by forcing up the price of oil and, at a significantly lower level of importance, has largely destroyed the political reputation of our Prime Minister.

The war was a humanitarian blunder because of the tragic deaths of so many British and American soldiers and the many more whose bodies have been maimed and whose lives have been ruined, and the sadness and suffering that that has brought to their families, which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. It was a humanitarian blunder also because of the countless and largely uncounted tens of thousands of wholly innocent non-combatant Iraqis—Shi'a, Sunni and Kurds—who have been slaughtered, mutilated, orphaned or robbed of their homes and livelihoods by reason of the chaos into which the invasion has plunged the country that was Iraq, but can never be Iraq again.

As a result of his tragic misjudgments in the middle east, our Prime Minister is, figuratively speaking, more deeply steeped in blood than any Scottish politician since Macbeth. We need an inquiry to tell us how he led us into this disaster, and to make sure that no vainglorious and ignorant Prime Minister can ever do so again.