



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

3 September 2014

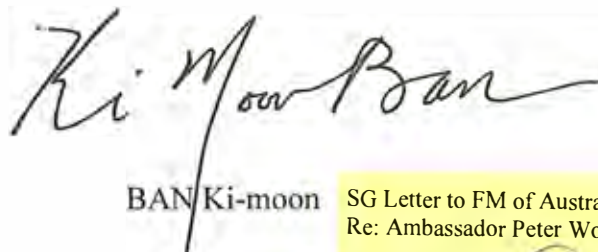
Excellency,

I would like to reference the conclusion of the tenure of His Excellency Mr. Peter Woolcott as the Australian Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva at the end of August 2014, and his scheduled return to Australia. As you are aware, Ambassador Woolcott, in his capacity as President of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, was instrumental in advancing closely held discussions with the Government of Kuwait over how to mark the conclusion of the Commission's work in the middle of next year.

As a result of these discussions, the Amir of the State of Kuwait is giving close consideration to a celebratory package that is likely to include an international symposium, a publication and a major donation to the United Nations. I am advised that the Amir wants the donation to be humanitarian in nature and to provide a lasting legacy. The generous gesture of Kuwait is poised to make a substantial contribution to the global humanitarian architecture.

Ambassador Woolcott is part of a small Task Force which is working through the remaining issues with the Government of Kuwait. In doing so, the involvement of the Government of Iraq will also require sensitive handling. Ambassador Woolcott has the full confidence of all parties and therefore it would be most advantageous to this endeavour if he could continue his stewardship at this critical juncture. In this connection, I anticipate that the work of the Task Force will not be demanding in terms of time and should be largely completed by the end of 2014. I would therefore be most grateful if positive consideration could be afforded to allowing Ambassador Woolcott to continue to be available to provide his leadership of the Task Force until the end of this year. This request is testament to the critical role played by Ambassador Woolcott and the Government of Australia in this seminal work.

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


BAN Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Ms. Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Commonwealth of Australia
Cranberra

SG Letter to FM of Australia
Re: Ambassador Peter Woolcott

Drafted by: OCdG
Reviewed by: YB/SW/EW

Approved by the Udc
3 September 2014