



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 January 2009

Dear Mr. Cox and Ms. Leslie,

Please accept my sincere apology for canceling my planned trip to Los Angeles. As you are no doubt aware, the situation in Gaza has dramatically worsened and I have to engage myself directly to resolve the crisis.

I am writing to you with a heavy heart knowing how this difficult but unavoidable decision will affect your work, in particular as this is the third time geopolitical developments have forced me to cancel plans to travel to Los Angeles.

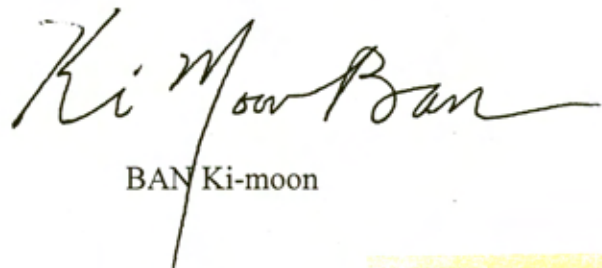
I had really been looking forward to the event that the LA Business Council, alongside the RAND Corporation, has prepared on sustainable environment, which is one of my top priorities. I heard that the event was scheduled to take place at one of the most prestigious places in Los Angeles, and I am aware that the LA Business Council and the RAND Corporation invested a great deal of effort to make the arrangements, even during the holiday season.

I trust that your hard work was an expression of your support for the United Nations and, in that spirit, hope that you understand my decision.

It is my sincere hope that we will have another opportunity to meet in the near future. Repeated cancellations only strengthen my resolve to visit Los Angeles.

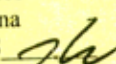
I wish you all the best and good health in 2009.

Yours sincerely,

  
BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Brad Cox  
Chairman

Ms. Mary Leslie  
President  
Los Angeles Business Council  
Los Angeles

Letter to Ms. Cox & Ms. Leslie  
Draft by Sanghwa Lee  
Reviewed by: Simona  
Approved by: KWS   
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