



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 June 2008

Austria
League of Arab States
Lebanon
EU
Inv for Rep

Excellency,

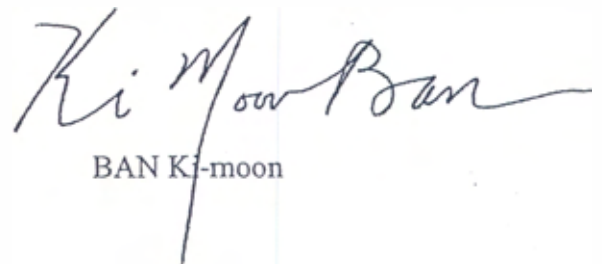
Thank you for your invitation to the international donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area, to be organised in Vienna on 23 June 2008.

The international donor conference will be an essential stepping stone towards helping the Palestine refugees of Nahr el Bared refugee camp to return to their lives and community. I hope that the international community will contribute generously to this very important endeavour.

I wholeheartedly support your efforts and those of the Government of Lebanon in that regard. In particular, I am looking forward to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) completing the expected reconstruction, in full partnership with all relevant partners, and I will follow the implementation of the project with great attention.

I very much regret that given the many demands on my schedule, I will not be able to attend the international donor conference. In my stead, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Mr. Johan Verbeke, will attend and represent me. Ms. Karen AbuZayd, UNRWA Commissioner-General, with whom I know you have cooperated closely, will also be present. I am pleased that both UNRWA and the World Bank are partners with you in this endeavour.

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


BAN Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Ms. Ursula Plassnik
Federal Minister for European and
International Affairs of Austria
Vienna

28-06-115 (38-6195) 28 06/11

cc: His Excellency
Mr. Fuad Siniora
Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic
Beirut

His Excellency
Mr. Amre Moussa
Secretary-General of the
League of Arab States
Cairo

Her Excellency
Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Member of the European Commission
Brussels

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS - ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017

CABLE ADDRESS - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

10 June 2008

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to Her Excellency Ms. Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs.

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 'Vijay Nambiar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Gerhard Pfanzelter
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations
New York

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERALFACSIMILE MESSAGE

Date:	10 June 2008	Ref:	
To:	Mr. Johan Verbeke United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Beirut	From:	Vijay Nambiar Chef de Cabinet New York <i>[Signature]</i>
Fax:			Fax: (212) 963-3826 Tel: (212) 963-8922
No. of pages: (including this one):			
Subject:	International donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp, Vienna, 23 June 2008.		

Dear Mr. Verbeke,

Thank you for agreeing to represent the Secretary-General at the international donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area, to be organised in Vienna on 23 June 2008.

Please find attached a copy of the relevant correspondence.

Best regards.

ROUTING SLIP		FICHE DE TRANSMISSION
TO:	Mr. Nambiar, Chef-de-Cabinet, EOSG VN	
THROUGH:		
FROM:	Horst Heitmann, Officer-in-Charge, DPA 28-06495	
Room No. – No de bureau: S-3520A	Ext: 3-0096	Date: 4 June 2008
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL	XXX	POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION	XXX	VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
RETURN		RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

MESSAGE:

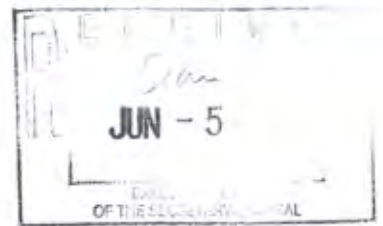
Please find attached for your signature a note to Mr. Nambiar and a draft letter for the Secretary-General's signature regarding the invitation to a donors' conference in Vienna on the reconstruction and recovery of the Nahr el Bared refugee camp.

Drafter: Michael Contet (7-7025)

File: S:\Middle East Team\Outgoing Notes\HHtoVN[NahrElBaredConf].doc
Diskette attached



VN



Note to Mr. Nambiar

**INVITATION TO THE NAHR EL BARED RECONSTRUCTION AND
RECOVERY DONOR CONFERENCE**

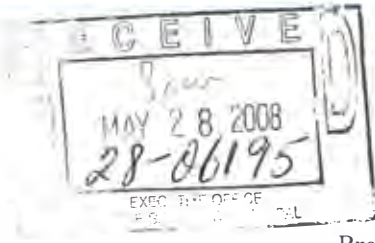
1. With reference to the attached invitation from Austrian Foreign Minister Plassnik, ^{# 28-06311} Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora, LAS Secretary-General Moussa and European Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner, for the Secretary-General to attend the international donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area, to be organised in Vienna on 23 June 2008, we should like to propose that the Secretary-General be represented at the conference by the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Mr. Johan Verbeke. UNRWA Commissioner-General Karen AbuZayd will also be present at the conference.
2. Should this proposal be agreeable to you, it is suggested that the attached draft reply be submitted for the signature of the Secretary-General.

H. H.
Horst Heitmann
OIC, DPA
4 June 2008

CC: Mr. Verbeke
Mr. Whitley



Ursula Plassnik
Federal Minister for European and
International Affairs
Republic of Austria



Fouad Siniora
President of the Council of Ministers
Lebanese Republic



Amr Moussa
Secretary – General
League of Arab States



Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations
European Union

H.E.
Mr. BAN Ki-Moon
Secretary General
United Nations
New York

23 May 2008

Excellency,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an international donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area. The conference will take place in Vienna on 23 June 2008 at the Hofburg Palace and will be hosted by Austria in cooperation with the Government of Lebanon, the European Commission, and the Arab League.

In the summer of 2007, heavy fighting broke out between the Lebanese Army and a terrorist group named Fateh al Islam, which had infiltrated the “Old Camp” of Nahr el Bared. The deadly confrontation, which lasted four months, threatened national and regional security and stability.

At the local level, Nahr el Bared and its surrounding areas experienced a total destruction of the Old Camp and incurred heavy damages in the adjacent areas referred to as the New Camp, which need rebuilding. As a result of the conflict 30,000 Palestinian and Lebanese people became internally displaced, which had repercussions on local inhabitants and pressured Lebanese Palestinian relations deflected by the Lebanese government and Palestinians. The damages incurred presented challenges that Lebanon could not shoulder alone.

The Government of Lebanon along with UNRWA and the World Bank will present to all the donors a comprehensive plan to support the recovery and reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee Camp (NDRC) and the conflict affected areas in North Lebanon. The plan aims at rebuilding the camp and the conflict affected areas in an equitable and sustainable manner. Final reports will be made available to the participants of the conference by the end of May.

The solutions proposed in the recovery and reconstruction master-plan will contribute to the important objective of restoring Lebanon's full sovereignty and territorial integrity and will not aim at a permanent settlement of refugees in Lebanon. A solution to the Palestinian refugee issue in Lebanon has to be the outcome of efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East in accordance with International Law and United Nations Resolutions.

Following a preparatory meeting at the beginning of June, the International Donor Conference in Vienna will focus on concrete contributions of the donor representatives to achieve the humanitarian aim of a swift reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared camp. The government of Lebanon and UNRWA are seeking the financial support of the Arab and the international communities to help consolidate peace and stability both in Lebanon and the region.

The conference will start on Monday, June 23rd at 10 o'clock a.m., include a working lunch followed by a concluding session. On Sunday, June 22nd evening, the Austrian chair will be glad to invite for dinner heads of delegations who will be able to arrive in Vienna by that time. Further information will be provided after the receipt of your reply.

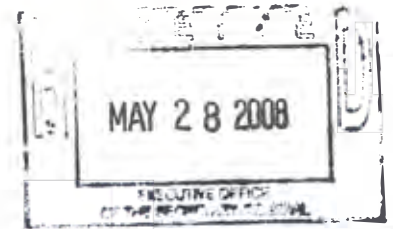
Heide Thessink

Fred Simon.

Jim Tamm

Janita Fereiro-Hell

The Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations



New York, 28 May 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I have the honour of transmitting to you a letter by Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik inviting you to attend the international donor conference on the reconstruction and recovery of the Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area in Northern Lebanon. Upon the request of Prime Minister Siniora, Austria will be hosting this conference in Vienna on 23 June.

With my warmest regards

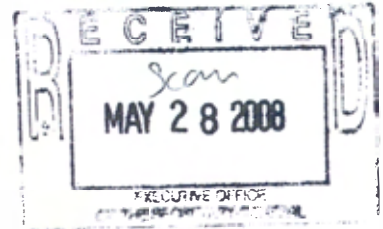

Gerhard Pfanzelter
Ambassador

H.E.
Mr. BAN Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

600 Third Avenue, 31st Floor New York NY 10016 Telephone: 917 342 8424 FAX 212 949 1940

The Federal Minister for
European and International Affairs

Ursula Plassnik



H.E.
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States of America

Vienna, 28 May 2008

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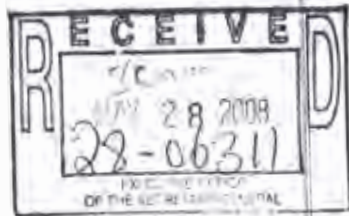
Upon request by Prime Minister Siniora, Austria, together with the Government of Lebanon, the European Commission, and the Arab League, will host a donors' conference on the reconstruction and recovery of the Nahr el Bared Palestinian Refugee camp and its surrounding area in Lebanon.

At this conference, the Lebanese Government will present a master plan, which was worked out with the technical support of UNRWA and the World Bank.

In view of the central importance of the refugee question for the Middle East peace process, and having in mind the recent positive developments in Lebanon, I would be honoured, Mr. Secretary General, if you could attend that conference and emphasize its political significance by your participation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Ursula Plassnik', is written below the closing.



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

The Federal Minister for
European and International Affairs

Ursula Plassnik

H.E.
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States of America

Vienna, 28 May 2008

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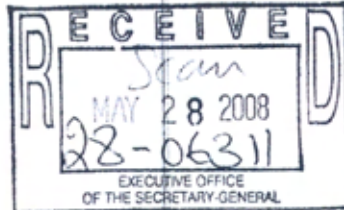
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Yours sincerely,

RECEIVED TIME MAY. 28. 10:49AM



Ursula Plassnik
Federal Minister for European and
International Affairs
Republic of Austria



Amr Moussa
Secretary -- General
League of Arab States



Fouad Siniora
President of the Council of Ministers
Lebanese Republic



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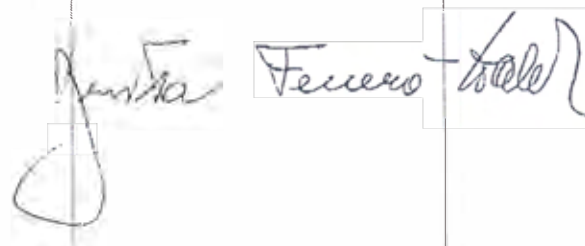
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