

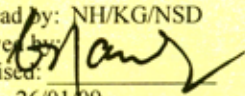
26 January 2009

Excellency,

I have asked my Special Adviser, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to personally convey to Your Excellency my best wishes for the New Year to the Government and people of Myanmar. At a time of great change in Myanmar and internationally, it is my sincere hope that 2009 will see your country move closer to achieving a stable, prosperous and democratic future that meets the aspirations of all the people of Myanmar and the expectations of the international community at large. As Secretary-General, I remain personally committed to deepening and broadening the process of mutual engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations with a view to supporting the efforts of Myanmar to that end.

As discussed with Your Excellency, I look forward to making a return visit to Myanmar in order to follow up on the progress made in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis and build on our positive exchanges to address a broad range of issues of mutual interest, including national reconciliation, democratic transition and respect for human rights. In this regard, I strongly believe that tangible results on the five-point agenda discussed so far, in the context of my good offices mandate, can help create an environment conducive to making my return visit to Myanmar at the earliest opportunity useful and productive.

His Excellency  
Senior General Than Shwe  
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council  
of the Union of Myanmar  
Nay Pyi Taw

SG letter to Senior Gen Than Shwe  
Drafter: DPA  
Proofread by: NH/KG/NSD  
Approved by:   
Authorised:  
Date: 26/01/09

Finally, it is also my strong view that the changing international environment in which the visit of my Special Adviser is taking place offers a unique opportunity for Myanmar to signal positively to all members of the international community, through concrete steps, its readiness to work in closer partnership with the United Nations in the interest of the nation and people of Myanmar.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon