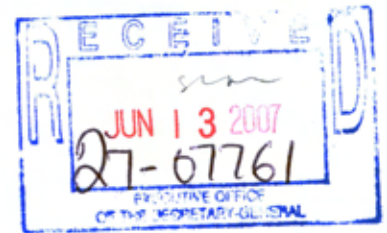




Misión Permanente de Panamá
ante las Naciones Unidas

JA

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MPP NY-310/07
12 June 2007

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

I wish to convey the utmost gratitude of the Government and people of the Republic of Panama, while reiterating President Torrijos' deep appreciation for Your Excellency and Madame Ban's recent visit to Panama.

Indeed, your presence was significant at an institutional level because it shows the United Nations' profound commitment to foster links with regional organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS) and further its integration as an important part of the international architecture.

Your Excellency's visit proved to be of historical significance since it was the first of its kind by a sitting Secretary-General of the United Nations. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Panama Canal among the sites you had the opportunity to visit is also worthy of our highest regard. The Panama Canal is an icon of our country's history and a foundation of our hopes and dreams.

Please convey our heartfelt thanks to Madame Ban for accompanied the First Lady during the visit to "Hogar Malambo." As a witness to our people's solidarity to those less fortunate, "Hogar Malambo" has, for more than a century, strived to help orphans and poor children in our country, and its work is greatly appreciated by Panamanian society.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest and esteemed consideration.

Ricardo Alberto Arias
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

RAA/mps

