

15 April 2010

Excellency,

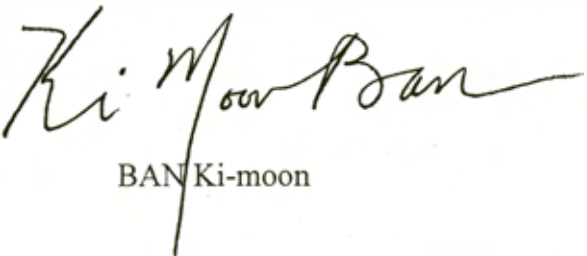
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for hosting a dinner in my honour in Jerusalem on 20 March 2010. I greatly appreciated our constructive discussions on a wide range of issues of mutual interest and concern, including prospects for peace, and current developments in Iran, Iraq and Lebanon. I hope that a way can be found to address your concerns within the framework of international cooperation.

The relationship between the United Nations and Israel remains strong. We will continue to support the engagement and contribution of Israel towards the multifaceted agenda of the United Nations. Let me reiterate my appreciation for the humanitarian relief efforts of Israel in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

As we discussed, the United Nations and our Quartet partners are keen to see the start of proximity talks with the Palestinians, leading to resumed negotiations. We must do all we can to ensure that these negotiations succeed in achieving our shared goal of two states living side by side in peace and security.

I would like to thank you for facilitating my visit to Gaza. I welcome the steps taken by Israel to ease conditions in the West Bank and allow a broader range of materials into Gaza to facilitate the completion of some of the United Nations projects. On our part, we will continue to support efforts to release Corporal Gilat Shalit and press for humanitarian access to be granted.

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



BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Shimon Peres
President of the State of Israel
Jerusalem



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 April 2010

Excellency,

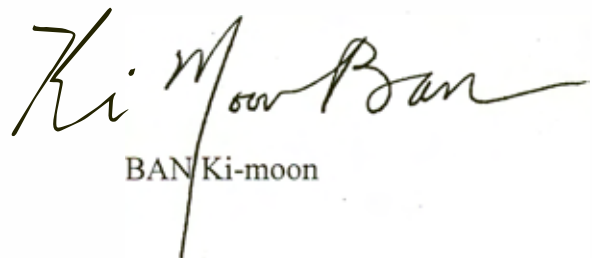
I would like to thank you for hosting a luncheon in my honour in Jerusalem on 21 March 2010. I greatly appreciated our constructive discussion on a range of issues of mutual interest and concern. I hope that a way can be found to address your concerns within the framework of international cooperation.

Let me reiterate my appreciation for the humanitarian relief efforts of Israel in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. I hope that this type of humanitarian effort and other cooperative projects will continue to strengthen our relationship. We will also continue to support the engagement and contribution of Israel towards the multifaceted agenda of the United Nations.

The United Nations and our Quartet partners are keen to see progress in resumed negotiations with the Palestinians. It is vital that we create a political horizon to inspire hope, trust and confidence in a better future; that we all support negotiations towards achieving our shared goal of two states living side by side in peace and security; and that there is an environment conducive to the success of those negotiations.

I welcome the easing of conditions in the West Bank and I am grateful for the broader range of materials which have recently been approved to enter Gaza to facilitate completion of some of the United Nations projects. However, much more needs to be done to address the situation there. I am relying on you to do all possible to facilitate the United Nations efforts in that regard. On our part, we will continue to support efforts to release Corporal Gilat Shalit and press for humanitarian access to be granted.

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


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Ehud Barak
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Defense of the State of Israel
Jerusalem



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 April 2010

Excellency,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation by yourself and the Palestinian Authority. I would also like to thank you for hosting a lunch reception in my honour on 20 March 2010 in Ramallah, as well as for your very kind gift.

I welcome the opportunity to hold a constructive discussion with you and other ministers involved in the state-building agenda on a broad range of issues. We will continue to support your highly commendable efforts to build the institutions of a viable Palestinian State. Of particular interest was my visit to the Masyoun lookout point where I witnessed many of the challenges and dilemmas you face.

Upon my return to New York, I briefed the Security Council. I stressed that there is no alternative to negotiations for a comprehensive and just resolution of the conflict and an end to the occupation that began in 1967. I highlighted the efforts and achievements of the Palestinian Authority, particularly in the area of security. I also emphasized that the situation on the ground had crucial implications for the peace process and that the international community must continue to support the resumption of negotiations and the creation of an environment conducive to the success of these negotiations.

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


BAN/Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Salam Fayyad
Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority
Ramallah



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 April 2010

Dear Mr. Serry,

I would like to thank you and your staff, in particular your deputy Maxwell Gaylard and chief of staff Lynn Hastings, for organizing my visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory on 20 and 21 March 2010. I appreciated the professional and efficient manner in which you helped organize and manage my busy programme. As a result, we were able to accomplish all of the objectives laid out for the visit.

The opportunity to see first-hand the situation on the ground was a reminder of its urgency. This decades-long stalemate between Israel and the Palestinians, which has so many times erupted in bloodshed, should be resolved as soon as possible. In this context, the vital and life-saving work of the United Nations on the ground, despite numerous obstacles, remains important. I am grateful for your efforts and persistence in maintaining a constructive political dialogue with our partners and in advancing the multifaceted programmes of the United Nations.

I particularly appreciated meeting with members of the United Nations Country Team. Their hard work, dedication and determination, despite a challenging operational environment, are commendable. Please convey to them my deep appreciation and encouragement.

I count on your support and will continue to look to you to advance the objectives of the United Nations in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Robert H. Serry
Special Coordinator for the Middle East
Peace Process
Jerusalem



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

15 April 2010

Dear Mr. Grandi,

I would like to thank you and your staff for facilitating my visit to Gaza on 21 March 2010. I appreciated the opportunity to witness first-hand again the situation on the ground, and also to mark our recent modest step forward in Khan Younis, Tel el Sultan and El Bader, despite a difficult operational environment.

My meeting with representatives of civil society in Gaza allowed me to see the challenges they face, as they try to rebuild and preserve what is left of their life. Their determination has reinforced my own resolve to ensure that the United Nations does everything it can to help the civilian population of Gaza, and indeed the Palestinian people as a whole.

I will continue to call on Israel to take further meaningful steps to end the blockade, open the crossings and facilitate reconstruction and economic activity. I will also work to seek political solutions and the implementation of Security Council resolutions and international law.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name "BAN Ki-moon" is printed in a sans-serif font.

BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Filippo Grandi
Commissioner-General
United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
Jerusalem

Five Letters for Secretary-General's signature

1. H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel
2. H.E. Mr. Ehud Barak, DPM and Minister of Defense of the State of Israel
3. H.E. Mr. Salam Fayyad, PM of the Palestinian Authority
4. Mr. Robert H. Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East
5. Mr. Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA

Drafter: DPA

Proofread by: JL/SA

Approved by:

Date: 15 April 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Serry', is written over the 'Approved by:' line.

10-03580