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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE

9 August 2011

Dear Lord Lothian,

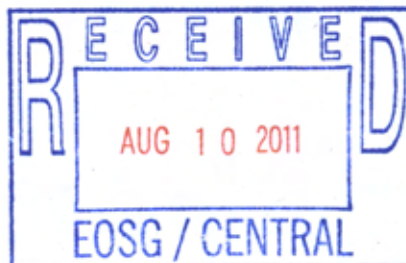
On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 25 July 2011 inviting him to address the next meeting of the Foreign Affairs Group, Le Cercle, to be held in Washington, D.C. on 13 November 2011.

The Secretary-General appreciates your kind invitation. Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that he will not be able to attend the meeting, in view of prior commitments and pressing demands already on his schedule on the said date. Nevertheless, allow me to take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

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

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

Lord Lothian  
Chairman  
Le Cercle  
London



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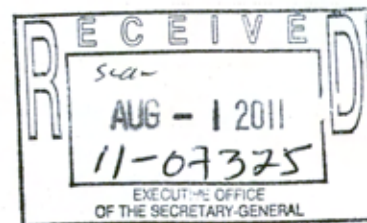
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**LE CERCLE**



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25<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon  
United Nations  
Room NL - 3015 - T  
New York, NY - 10017  
USA

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cc. RO

*Secretary General.*

I am writing to invite you to speak to the Foreign Affairs Group, Le Cercle, of which I am Chairman. The next meeting will be held in Washington DC from the evening of Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November until midday on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011. I very much hope that you will be able to address our group.

Past speakers at our meetings have included HE Benazir Bhutto, John Bolton, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Louis Freeh, Yegor Gaidar, Mrs Gandhi, HE Shaukat Aziz, Alan Greenspan, Rt Hon William Hague, Tsutomu Hata, Ambassador John D Negroponte, Richard Perle, David Rockefeller, Donald Rumsfeld, Justice Scalia, General Norman Schwarzkopf, HE Anatoly Sharansky, Manmohan Singh and The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher. I attach a fuller list for information.

At meetings earlier this year, we were privileged to hear talks from, amongst others, Dr Henry Kissinger, Senator Chuck Hagel, the Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, Dan Meridor, The Hon Richard Armitage, Prof Victor Kuvshinov of the Gorbachev Foundation, Army General Nikolai Malomuhz, Security Advisor to the President of Ukraine and Urmaz Paet, Foreign Minister of Estonia.

It would be a great honour for us if you would consider speaking to Le Cercle on a subject of your own choosing. I appreciate that your schedule is extremely busy but if you could give a conditional acceptance, this would be extremely welcome.

In terms of a general theme for our Meeting I am starting from the position that this year has been one of significant change. We will review what has occurred and look forward to where the pieces may settle. We will explore the shift of global economic and political power away from the West ('Has the West had its day in the sun?' 'Is the US drawing in its horns?' 'Is the European Union like the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire before it, disintegrating and retreating back to its tribes?') and look towards the East, particularly at China but also at India and the emerging economic dynamos in South East Asia. In terms of China, where is she heading? Will internal tensions undermine international ambitions and will this last major bastion of (qualified) communism hold together. We will also look at how Japan is recovering from the Earthquake ('Has the tsunami given new life to the rising sun?') and also re-evaluate what is happening in South America and whether we are witnessing the gradual emergence of yet another great global power.

contd/.



## LE CERCLE

We will also return to the politics of the Middle East Region, particularly Turkey; ('neo-ottomanism or just good neighbourliness?') and Qatar. And finally, I am also keen to look more closely at the strategic, economic and ecological impacts of the shrinking of the Arctic icecap which could dramatically change the status quo. It is a time for global thinkers and global thinking and I hope that our meeting will provide both.

The meetings of Le Cercle are held under strict Chatham House rules. There is no Press and everything that is said is off the record. We have never had any problems with that. Normally our meetings are attended by about eighty to a hundred people.

Le Cercle was founded in the 1950s by the former French Prime Minister Antoine Pinay, and Konrad Adenauer, the former German Chancellor. The group is largely European and American – Members of Parliament, diplomats, members of the intelligence community, commentators and businessmen from over twenty-five countries. We meet twice a year, once in Washington DC, and once elsewhere to review topics of interest, mostly foreign policy but also some domestic issues.

Our group has no political views. We have had speakers of all political persuasions and we welcome participants from all points of the political spectrum.

I think you can see from these that we are a serious minded group that seeks in depth analysis and discussion.

I hope you will give consideration to addressing Le Cercle. It would be a great privilege and honour to have you join us.

*We met last year at the World Policy Forum in Manchester.*

*J- 1-4*

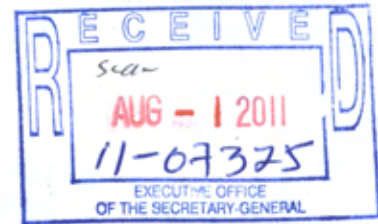
*Mike Lott-*

Lord Lothian  
CHAIRMAN

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Room NL - 3015 - T  
New York, NY - 10017  
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We met last year at the World Policy Forum in Manhattan.

Y-ri-s

Mike Lottin

Lord Lothian  
CHAIRMAN

## LE CERCLE

### SPEAKERS AND GUESTS AT RECENT MEETINGS OF LE CERCLE

Mani Shankar Aiyar (Minister for Panchayati Raj and Youth Affairs & Sport)  
Rt Hon. Michael Ancram (Deputy Leader of the British Conservative Party & Shadow Foreign Secretary)  
Jacques Attali (Former Chief de Cabinet of President Mitterrand)  
Andres Pastrana Arango (former President of Colombia)  
President José María Aznar (Former Prime Minister of Spain)  
HE Benazir Bhutto (former Prime Minister of Pakistan)  
Prof Dr Kurt Biedenkopf (former Prime Minister, Free State of Saxony)  
Carl Bildt (former Swedish Prime Minister)  
John Bolton (Under Secretary of State, State Department)  
Rachad Bouhlal (Secretary of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs)  
Paul Bremer (former US Administrator in Iraq)  
Lord Brittan (former EU Commissioner)  
Zbigniew Brzezinski (former US National Security Advisor)  
Louis Freeh (Director of the FBI)  
Yegor Gaider (former Russian Prime Minister)  
Mrs Gandhi  
Alan Greenspan (Chairman Federal Reserve Board)  
Senator Chuck Hagel (Republican Senator for Nebraska)  
Rt Hon William Hague (former Leader of the British Conservative Party)  
Tsutomu Hata (former Japanese Prime Minister)  
Rt Hon Michael Howard (Leader of the British Conservative Party)  
Arianna Huffington (Political Commentator)  
President Ion Iliescu of Romania  
Ambassador Martin Indyk (former American Ambassador to Israel)  
Mervyn King (Governor of the Bank of England),  
Jean Kirkpatrick (former US Ambassador to the United Nations)  
Henry Kissinger (former US Secretary of State)  
Vaclav Klaus (President, The Czech Republic).  
Senator Jon Kyl (Republican Senator for Arizona)  
Congressman Robert Menendez (Chairman, Democratic Caucus and Representative for New Jersey)  
Ambassador John D Negroponte (Deputy Secretary of State, US Department of State)  
Lord Owen (former British Foreign Secretary)  
Charles Pasqua (French Minister of the Interior)  
Richard Perle, (former US Assistant Defence Secretary)  
Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind (former British Foreign Secretary)  
David Rockefeller (Banker)  
Donald Rumsfeld (US Secretary for Defence)  
Peter Rodman (Assistant Defence Secretary)  
Justice Scalia  
General Norman Schwarzkopf  
HE Anatoly Sharansky (Member of Knesset and former Israeli Government Minister)  
Manmohan Singh (Prime Minister of India)  
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher  
David Trimble (Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party)  
HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal (Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the UK)  
Hubert Vedrine (former French Foreign Minister)  
James Woolsey (former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency)  
Grigori Yavlinsky (Leader of the Russian Yabloko Party and former Presidential candidate)  
Adberrahmane Youssoufi (Prime Minister of Morocco)

Further back we have also had the pleasure of entertaining HRH King Hussein of Jordan, Richard Nixon and The Sultan of Oman.