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Ethics office

Note to Mr. Melkert

Re: Request from United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

I would like to draw your attention to a communication dated 17 December 2009 received from Mr. Robin Sellers, Chief of Mission Support for UNAMI and requesting ex-post facto approval for the acceptance of the Sergio Viera de Mello prize. It is understood that you had accepted the award on 8 October 2009 at the invitation of the Czech Republic.

Based on advice from the Ethics Office, it has been decided to formally approve the acceptance of the prize post facto, provided that any decoration inscribed with your name should be retained by the Organisation until your separation. If, however, the decoration was inscribed in UNAMI's name, it can be prominently displayed at the duty station. The monetary portion of the Sergio Viera de Mello prize should be deposited into the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund (NOB Account) in consultation with the Department of Management.

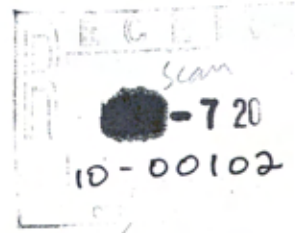


Vijay Nambiar
7 January 2010

Cc: Ms. Kane
Mr. KIM
Mr. Yamazaki

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10-00102

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Note to Mr. Nambiar



Re: Request from United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) ✓

I refer to your note of 21 December 2009 wherein you refer to a memo from the Chief of Mission Support for UNAMI, Mr. Robin Sellers, dated 17 December 2009 concerning the Sergio Viera de Mello prize, which was presented to UNAMI and received by Mr. Ad Melkert on 8 October 2009.

Please note that, UNAMI first approached the Ethics Office on 15 October 2009 informing us that the prize was already received and enquired as to how to handle the monetary portion. The Ethics Office advised them to ensure that the monetary portion of this award is accounted for appropriately in the accounts of the United Nations by liaising with the Controllers Office.

Since the prize was presented by the High Representative of the President of Poland at a public ceremony involving several notable figures, it appears that refusal would have caused embarrassment and therefore receipt was necessary. Given the circumstances, it is appropriate to approve the acceptance of this prize post facto, provided that any decoration inscribed with Mr. Melkert's name be retained by the Organization until his separation. If, however, there was a decoration inscribed in UNAMI's name, it can be prominently displayed at the duty station.

After consulting with the Department of Management, the monetary portion of the Sergio Viera de Mello prize should be deposited into the United Nations Nobel Peace Prize Memorial Fund (NOB account) to benefit the families of staff members fallen in the line of duty.

Robert Benson
Director
Ethics Office

5 January 2010

Note to Mr. Benson

Re: Request from United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Please refer to a communication dated 17 December 2009 from the Chief of Mission Support for UNAMI (copy attached). In this context, I would like to ask your office to review this request in consultation with the Department of Management and send us your recommendation. Based on your formal intimation, I shall convey our approval.


Vijay Nambiar
21 December 2009

Cc: Ms. Kane
Mr. KIM
Mr. Yamazaki

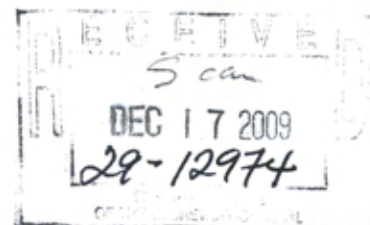
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(UNAMI)

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Date: 17 December 2009

To Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet, OSG

From: Mr. Robin Sellers
CMS, UNAMI

Subject: Request for Secretary General's approval for receipt of monetary gift

1. Please be advised that on 8 October 2009, at the invitation of the Czech Republic, Mr. Ad Melkert received the Sergio Vieira de Mello prize on behalf of UNAMI. The Prize was awarded for active involvement in peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and denominations, and cultures and was received at a ceremony that took place during the Challenges for Freedom Conference held 8-9 October 2009 at Villa Decius in Krakow, Poland. The Prize was accompanied with a monetary component in the amount of 10,000.00 Polish Zloty.

2. The Ceremony was attended by the Jury of the Prize, comprising the High Representative of the President of the Republic of Poland, Ambassadors of Brazil and Sweden to Poland, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Polish Institute of National Remembrance, Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection. Founders of the Prize, and the Chairman and Director of the Villa Decius Association. Also in attendance were conference experts, students and the media. Mr. Melkert was invited to represent the United Nations --and indeed UNAMI-- in receiving such an esteemed honor for humanitarian service in tribute to the work of UN colleagues in Iraq.

3. Mr. Jun Yamazaki Controller, agreed to the receipt on of the funds on principle and advised us to approach your office to secure ex-post facto approval for the acceptance of the award. He further advised that the award would be lodged into either the NOA/NOB trust fund for Nobel Prize or the Iraq/Kuwait Boundary Maintenance trust fund.

4. Thank you for your attention to this matter.