



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Japan

25 September 2008

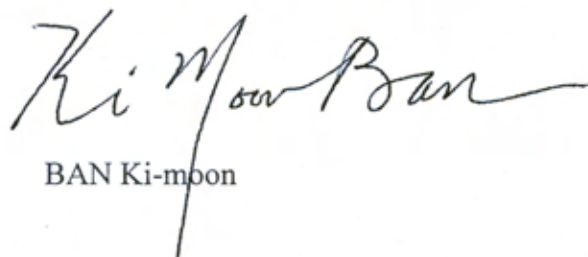
Excellency,

Please accept my warm congratulations on your election as Prime Minister of Japan. I wish you and your Government every success in implementing your vision of Japan, playing a greater role in the region and the world at large.

It is my strong hope that under your leadership Japan will remain a strong supporter of the United Nations and multilateralism. The leadership of Japan is critical to the success of our common efforts to address the global challenges of the financial, energy and food crises, outbreaks of war and armed conflict, as well as terrorism and climate change. I also look forward to our continued close cooperation towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the cause of human rights.

I should also like to take this opportunity to convey through you my deep gratitude, respect and appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, for his commitment to the work of the United Nations.

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


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Taro Aso
Prime Minister of Japan
Tokyo

28-11406

UNITED NATIONS



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POSTAL ADDRESS - ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017

CABLE ADDRESS - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

25 September 2008

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

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


Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Yukio Takasu
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations
New York

United Nations



Nations Unies

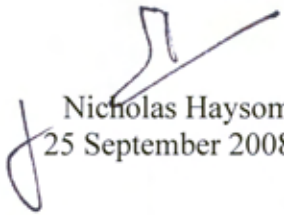
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

! URGENT

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature, a congratulatory letter addressed to the new Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Taro Aso, who the SG will meet tonight.

In this respect, The Secretary-General may wish to personally deliver this letter to PM Aso during his meeting.

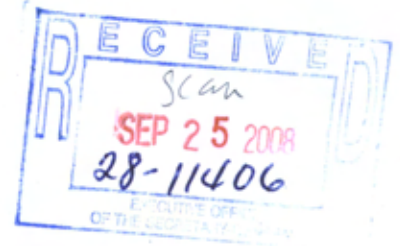

Nicholas Haysom
25 September 2008

cc: KWS

28-11406

ACTION COPY

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Note to the Chef de Cabinet


NEW PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN ✓

Following Yasuo Fukuda's abrupt resignation as Prime Minister of Japan on 1 September, the Japanese parliament elected today **Taro Aso**, 68, as the new Prime Minister of Japan. The Foreign Minister in Fukuda's cabinet, Mr. Aso became the President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) this Monday. **Takeo Kawamura**, 65, has become the new Chief Cabinet Secretary, as well as the top official in charge of the "abduction issue."

Mr. Aso, a charismatic politician with a reputation of an outspoken conservative and a nationalist, proclaimed that his mission as Prime Minister was "to make Japan a bright and strong country." He is Japan's first Catholic leader. The new Prime Minister promised "emergency measures" to revive Japan's ailing economy and stressed the importance of participating in the fight against terrorism by continuing Japan's refueling activities in the Indian Ocean, as well as of reinforcing Japan-US ties and dealing with North Korea. Given his past controversies, it remains to be seen to what extent the new Prime Minister is going to continue the course of his predecessor towards improved relations with China and South Korea. However, keeping the LDP in power is probably Mr. Aso's biggest challenge, as he is expected to announce a snap election in the next several months, in order to prevent the opposition Democratic Party of Japan from taking over.

Mr. Aso, accompanied by the new Foreign Minister **Hirofumi Nakasone**, 62, is expected to be in New York tomorrow to address the General Assembly, as well as to meet with the Secretary-General and other world leaders.

Please find attached, for the consideration and approval by the Secretary-General, a draft customary letter of congratulations to the new Prime Minister of Japan.


B. Lynn Pascoe
24 September 2008

cc: Ms. Buttenheim

