

Ethics office
Top Ech. "Clark"
New Zealand

Note to Mr. Benson

Re: Request from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand for approval of the proposal to appoint Ms. Clark as a Member of the Order of New Zealand (ONZ)

1. Please refer to a communication dated 12 November 2009 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (copy attached). He has drawn attention to the intention of the New Zealand Government to recommend to Her Majesty the Queen of New Zealand the appointment of Ms. Helen Clark as a Member of the Order of New Zealand and has sought formal approval of the Secretary-General.
2. Based on a preliminary review of the request, it was felt that while issues of conflict of interest should be considered, we would have to be mindful of Ms. Clark's career and her service to her country prior to her appointment as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. It is noteworthy that her entire career has not been circumscribed by the United Nations system. The potential embarrassment that could be caused by not approving this proposal needs to be also considered. The Secretary-General agreed that there does not appear to be any potential conflict of interest and that the views of the Ethics Office be sought.
3. In this context, I would like to ask your office to review this request and send us your recommendation. On your formal intimation, I shall convey our approval.



Vijay Nambiar
18 November 2009



Note to the Secretary-General

Re: Request from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand for approval of the proposal to appoint Ms. Clark as a Member of the Order of New Zealand (ONZ)

I would like to refer to a communication dated 12 November 2009 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations (copy attached). He has drawn attention to the intention of the New Zealand Government to recommend to Her Majesty the Queen of New Zealand the appointment of Ms. Helen Clark as a Member of the Order of New Zealand. This proposal is in recognition of her services to New Zealand. He seeks your formal approval as required by the rules.

In all such cases, the practice has been to request formal advice from the Ethics Office before a determination can be made. In the extant proposal, I feel that while issues of conflict of interest should be considered, we have to be mindful of Ms. Clark's career and her service to her country prior to her appointment as the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. It is noteworthy that her entire career has not been circumscribed by the United Nations system. The potential embarrassment that could be caused by not approving this proposal needs to be also considered.

In this context, if you agree that there does not appear to be any potential conflict of interest, we will formally seek the views of the Ethics Office. The Permanent Mission of New Zealand will be advised on receipt of appropriate advice from the Ethics Office.

CdC	SG
For SG's approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>	Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>by</i>
For SG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	Noted <input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information <input type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input type="checkbox"/>
Date <i>16.11.09</i>	Date <i>18/11/09</i>
Comment (if applicable):	

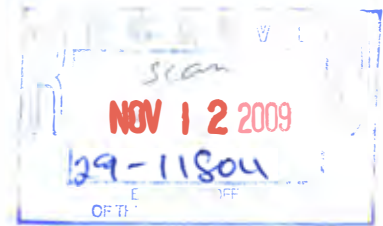
Vijay Nambiar
Vijay Nambiar
17 November 2009



NEW ZEALAND

Permanent Mission to the United Nations
TE AKA AORERE

ACTION
COPY



12 November 2009

HE Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
Room S-3800
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10016

By Hand
Personal and Confidential

Excellency,

Thank you for seeing me today. As you know, I sought that private meeting at the request of my Prime Minister, the Honourable John Key MP, to advise the intention of the New Zealand Government to recommend to Her Majesty the Queen of New Zealand that, in recognition of her services to New Zealand, the Right Honourable Helen Clark be appointed a Member of The Order of New Zealand (ONZ). That appointment would be included in New Zealand's New Year Honours List to be announced on 31 December 2009 (New Zealand time).

The Order of New Zealand is the country's highest honour. At any one time, only twenty living persons can be Ordinary Members of the Order.

Past and present members include the late Sir Edmund Hillary, the immediate past Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Don McKinnon, the former Prime Minister and Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Mike Moore, and the opera singer, Dame Kiri te Kanawa.

Attached is a copy of the biographical note and citation that would accompany the proposed honour. As you will see, it is for Helen Clark's services to New Zealand over many years, but especially for her contribution as Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has already discussed the proposed honour with Ms Clark, and she has agreed to accept it. Under the rules of the United Nations, the appointment also requires your approval. You indicated that you were pleased

to give such approval, but asked that we record that fact in this correspondence. I would therefore appreciate it if you could formally advise that assent to as soon as possible.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McLay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim McLay
Permanent Representative

Right Honourable Helen Clark

Ms Clark was the longest serving leader of the New Zealand Labour Party and was the Prime Minister of New Zealand for three consecutive terms from 1999 to 2008. She was the fifth longest serving Prime Minister of New Zealand and the first female Prime Minister to have won office at an election. She was also the Member of Parliament for Mt Albert, Auckland for 18 years; the second women elected to represent an Auckland electorate.

During her leadership of New Zealand, she was notable for her work in policy development, her advocacy in the international, economic, social, and cultural fields, and maintaining three terms of stable MMP government. Under her guidance, New Zealand achieved significant economic growth, low levels of unemployment, and high levels of investment in education and health and in the well-being of families and senior citizens. She is also notable for her prioritisation of the reconciliation and settlement of historical grievances with New Zealand's indigenous people and the development of an inclusive multicultural and multi-faith society. She also advocated strongly for environmental sustainability and addressing the problems of climate change. As Prime Minister, she was also dedicated to developing New Zealand's art and culture as the Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage. She was also Minister in Charge of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service. She was a member of the Council of Women World Leaders; an international network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers.

Prior to becoming Prime Minister, Ms Clark had an extensive political, parliamentary and ministerial career. She has been involved with the New Zealand Labour Party for most of her life, where she has held office at every level of the party. She served as a member of the party's New Zealand executive for ten years after chairing the University of Auckland Princes Street Branch. She was also the President of the Labour Youth Council, an executive member of the party's Auckland Regional Council, a member of the policy council, and the Secretary of the Labour Women's Council. She represented the New Zealand Labour Party at the congresses of the Socialist International and of the Socialist International Women and was a government delegate to the World Conference to mark the end of the United Nations Decade for Women in Nairobi in 1985.

Ms Clark was elected to Parliament in 1981 and consequently served on many parliamentary committees and held many ministerial portfolios. She was a minister in the fourth Labour Government where she was the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Conservation, and the Minister of Health. She served as the Deputy Prime Minister between August 1989 and November 1990. She held the position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in 1992 and the Opposition spokesperson for Health and Labour. In 1993, she became the Leader of the Opposition, before being elected as Prime Minister in 1999.

Ms Clark is highly regarded internationally for her work in the political arena. In 1986, she was awarded the annual Peace Prize of the Danish Peace Foundation for her work in

promoting international disarmament. In 2006, she was ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 20th most powerful woman in the world and is an honorary member of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. In 2008, she won the United Nations Environment Programme Champions of the Earth Award in recognition of the government's promotion of sustainability initiatives. In 2009, she was voted as the greatest living New Zealander by a poll run by the New Zealand Herald and also received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Auckland

Ms Clark is the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; the third highest position in the United Nations and the first woman to lead the organisation, and is also the Chair of the United National Development Group.