

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012


Excellency,

I would like to express my profound gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation during my official visit to Lebanon from 13 to 15 January 2012, and to extend my sincere thanks to you for the dinner you so generously hosted in my honour on 13 January 2012. I also wish to thank you for your thoughtful gift which will serve as a beautiful memento of my third visit to Lebanon.

I appreciated our comprehensive discussions on issues of mutual interest, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 and 1559, the internal political situation in Lebanon and the impact of regional developments on Lebanon. I look forward to continuing to work together towards achieving our shared goals of peace, security and prosperity of Lebanon and its people.

The unwavering commitment of Lebanon to the values and goals of the United Nations is a strong asset for our Organization and I look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

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


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
General Michel Sleiman
President of the Republic of Lebanon
Baabda



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012

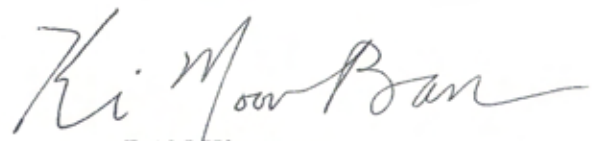
Excellency,

Allow me to express my profound gratitude to you for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation during my official visit to Lebanon from 13 to 15 January 2012, and to extend my sincere thanks to you for the dinner you hosted on 14 January on the eve of the High-Level Meeting on Reform and Transitions to Democracy. Your most generous gift will serve as a beautiful memento of my third visit to Lebanon.

I appreciated our comprehensive discussions on issues of mutual interest, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 and 1559, support to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the safety of United Nations staff and the impact of regional developments on the internal situation of Lebanon. I also appreciated discussing with you maritime issues, as well as matters related to the empowerment of women and human rights. I commend you for your personal leadership and look forward to continuing our work towards achieving our shared goals of peace, security and prosperity of Lebanon and its people.

The unwavering commitment of Lebanon to the values and goals of the United Nations is a strong asset for our Organization and I look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

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


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Najib Mikati
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon
Beirut



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012

Excellency,

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation during my official visit to Lebanon from 13 to 15 January 2012, as well as for your generous gift which will serve as a nice memento of my third visit to your country.

I appreciated our comprehensive discussions on issues of mutual interest, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 and 1559, support to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the safety of United Nations staff and the impact of regional developments on the internal situation of Lebanon. I also appreciated discussing with you maritime issues, as well as matters related to the empowerment of women and human rights. I look forward to continuing our work towards achieving our shared goals of peace, security and prosperity of Lebanon and its people.

The unwavering commitment of Lebanon to the values and goals of the United Nations is a strong asset for our Organization and I look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ki Moon Ban', is written over the printed name 'BAN Ki-moon'.

BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Nabih Berri
President of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Lebanon
Beirut



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012

Excellency,

I would like to warmly thank you for the important efforts and resources deployed in ensuring that all elements would be in place for my third visit to Lebanon from 13 to 15 January 2012. I recognize that this is largely due to your personal dedication and work.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by Ms. Mira Violides, Chief of Protocol at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, who I know was instrumental in ensuring a seamless coordination of my visit.

I greatly appreciate the constructive working relationship we have developed, especially during the successful tenure of Lebanon in the Security Council in the last two years. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and cooperation in matters pertaining to Lebanon, as well as to the broader United Nations membership.

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

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

BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Mr. Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations
New York



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26 January 2012

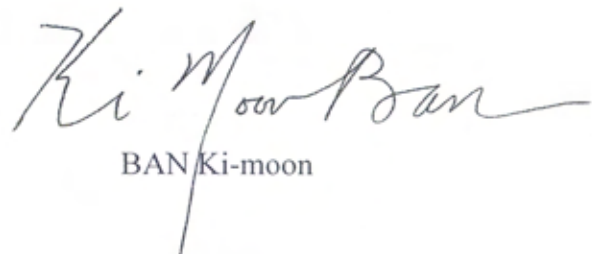
Dear Ms. Khalaf,

I would like to warmly thank you for organizing the High Level meeting on Reform and Transitions to Democracy on 15 January 2012. The theme of the meeting was both very important and timely in view of the historic transformations taking place in the Arab World. Thanks to your personal efforts and those of your team, the meeting was a great success. In this regard, I would be grateful if you could relay my particular thanks to Mr. Albagir Adam and Mr. Youssef Chaitani who I know were instrumental in ensuring a seamless organization of the event.

I much appreciated our exchange of views particularly with regards to the empowerment of women and their political participation in the Arab World in general and in Lebanon in particular. As you know, this issue is close to my heart and I strongly emphasized its importance during my meetings in Lebanon.

I would also like to thank you for organizing the town hall meeting with United Nations staff serving in Lebanon. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to personally thank the United Nations staff for the important work they are carrying out in Lebanon.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon

Ms. Rima Khalaf
Executive Secretary
Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia
Beirut



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012

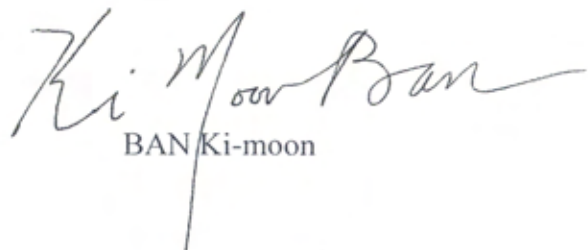
Dear Mr. Watkins,

It is my pleasure to thank you and your colleagues at the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) for the professionalism and dedicated efforts during my visit to Beirut from 13 to 15 January 2012. Let me also thank you most sincerely for the breakfast you hosted with members of the United Nations Country Team on 14 January 2012.

The visit was successful and highly productive due in no small part to you and your colleagues' close working relationship with the Lebanese authorities, which also helped to ensure that the programme ran smoothly and that all the logistical arrangements were in place. I would be grateful if you could please convey my profound appreciation to all United Nations colleagues on the ground, in particular to the very efficient team you established in order to make arrangements for my visit. In this regard, my special thanks go to Mr. Diego Zorrilla, Chief of Staff, who I know was particularly instrumental in ensuring that an excellent programme would be in place for my visit and that it would be implemented efficiently.

While I reiterate my thanks to you and your team for a superb organization of my third visit to Beirut, please accept my best wishes for the important work carried out by UNSCOL in Lebanon.

Yours sincerely,


BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Robert Watkins
Deputy Special Coordinator
Office of the United Nations Special
Coordinator for Lebanon
Beirut



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26 January 2012

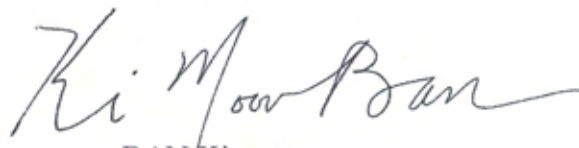
Dear General Asarta Cuevas,

It is my pleasure to thank you and your colleagues at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the professionalism and dedicated efforts during my visit to UNIFIL on 14 January 2012. Let me also thank you most sincerely for the generous lunch you hosted with members of the Force and UNIFIL colleagues, as well as for the nice gifts which will serve as a memento of my visit to the Mission. I was particularly appreciative of the exchange of views during our meeting as well as of the political, operational and military briefings which outlined with precision the current developments regarding the Mission.

The visit was successful and highly productive due in no small part to you and your colleagues' close working relationship with the authorities on the ground, which also helped to ensure that the programme ran smoothly and that all the logistical arrangements were in place. I would be grateful if you could please convey my profound appreciation to all United Nations colleagues on the ground, in particular to the very efficient team you established in order to make arrangements for my visit. In this regard, my special thanks go to Ms. Lisa Reefke, Political Affairs Officer in your office, as well as Major Jose Luis Descalzo Pino, who I know were particularly instrumental in ensuring that an excellent programme would be in place for my visit and that it would be implemented efficiently.

As you are about to relinquish your position, let me take this opportunity to reiterate my sincere thanks for the excellent cooperation I have enjoyed working with you, as well as for the professionalism and dedication with which you have led UNIFIL during your tenure. Please accept my best wishes for your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,


BAN Ki-moon

Major General Alberto Asarta Cuevas
Head of Mission and Force Commander
of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Naqoura



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 January 2012

Dear Mr. Weinlaender,

I would like to thank you and the staff at the Phoenicia Hotel for the warm welcome and excellent service provided to me and my delegation during our recent stay. Let me also thank you for the thoughtful gift you gave me, which will represent a nice memento of my stay in your hotel.

I would like to commend you for an outstanding and highly professional service that was provided to me and my delegation throughout our stay at the Phoenicia Hotel. The hotel's facilities and arrangements for my visit were of excellent quality.

I would be grateful if you could convey my sincere gratitude, as well as that of my entire delegation, to your personnel for contributing to a successful visit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban", is written above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.
BAN Ki-moon

Mr. Georg Weinlaender
General Manager
Phoenicia Hotel
Beirut

THANK YOU LETTERS FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO

Lebanon

(13-15 January 2012)

1. H.E. General Michel Sleiman, President of the Republic of Lebanon
2. H.E. Mr. Najib Mikati, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon
3. H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Lebanon
4. H.E. Mr. Nawaf Salam, Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations
5. Ms. Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary of ESCWA
6. Mr. Robert Watkins, United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) ad interim
7. Major General Alberto Asarta Cuevas, Force Commander and Head of Mission of UNIFIL
8. Mr. Georg Weinlaender, General Manager of Beirut Phoenicia Hotel

Drafters: DPA: Anne Gueguen-Mohsen, Alma Saliu
EOSG: Josiane Ambiehl

Proofread by: Sophia Williamson

Reviewed by: Yeocheol Yoon 

Approved by: Mr. Vijay Nambiar 

Date: 26 January 2012