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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

17 March 2009

Dear Ambassador Menzies,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your letter of 10 March 2009, inviting him to **receive** an honorary doctoral degree during the spring Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, scheduled for 8 May 2009 at Seton Hall University.

Unfortunately, I must inform you that the Secretary-General will be unable to take part in the ceremony, owing to prior commitments. Therefore, he has to decline your kind offer. **Nevertheless**, let me take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event and a thriving institution.

Yours sincerely,

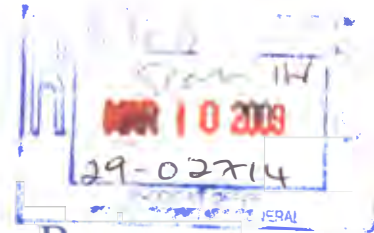
Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Ambassador John K. Menzies
Dean
John C. Whitehead School of
Diplomacy and International
Relations
Seton Hall University
South Orange

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JOHN C. WHITEHEAD
SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY



10 March 2009

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations, Room S-3800
New York, NY 10017

Ambassador John K. Menzies
Dean
Telephone 973.275.2516
Email: menziejo@shu.edu

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

On behalf of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University, I would like to invite you to receive an honorary doctoral degree during our spring Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony to be held on the evening of Friday, 8 May 2009. During the ceremony, we would be pleased to hear you share your advice for our future leaders as well as your priorities for the United Nations.

The Whitehead School was established in a unique alliance with the United Nations Association of the USA, thus providing our students with an unparalleled focus on the United Nations in our curriculum. For nine years we have offered an innovative summer program which brings students from Seton Hall and around the world to New York for an intensive week of seminars with United Nations delegates and staff. In 2001, the Whitehead School had the distinct honor to serve as the Secretariat for the UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. A number of our adjunct professors have enjoyed distinguished UN careers, and we have regularly hosted senior Secretariat officials, including Mark Malloch Brown.

It would be an honor to continue this strong tradition of cooperation with the United Nations by celebrating your work as Secretary-General while welcoming you to our campus. Seton Hall is located just 15 miles from New York City and, should your schedule hinder your attendance on 8 May, we would be happy to schedule the awarding of your honorary degree for any other date and time during our academic calendar, which runs from September to May. We envision an audience of approximately one thousand students, faculty, and other guests for the ceremony. If your schedule permits, I would be delighted if you would join us for a reception in your honor, attended by our graduates, leading members of the University community, representatives from national and state government, area business executives, and other distinguished guests from the diplomatic community.

Seton Hall is a Catholic university of national prominence, attracting students and faculty of diverse backgrounds from across the United States and around the globe. We challenge our students to better the world through integrity, compassion, and a commitment to helping others. The Whitehead School embraces this commitment in its undergraduate and graduate programs. The School is widely recognized as a forum where international leaders discuss critical global issues. Among those who have visited our campus is your predecessor, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who

offered a major address on the Dialogue among Civilizations in February 2001. The School has also been privileged to host other current and former leaders including Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Perez, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Polish President Lech Walesa, and most recently British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

If you are able to accept our invitation or **have** any questions, I kindly ask that your staff contact my office by phone at (973) 275-2516, **by** fax at (973) 275-2460, or by email at menziesjo@shu.edu.

We look forward to the possibility of awarding you an honorary doctorate and having you visit the Whitehead School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John K. Menzies".

Ambassador John K. Menzies, Ph.D.
Dean