

Pakistan
DPA

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 June 2009

Excellency,

I am writing in regard to the Commission of Inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. I wish to inform you that, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the Terms of Reference of the Commission of Inquiry, I intend to announce that the Commission will commence its activities on 1 July 2009.

The Secretariat is in the final stages of establishing the administrative and organizational basis for the Commission. I have appointed three distinguished Commissioners: Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, as Commission head; Mr. Marzuki Darusman, former Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia; and Mr. Peter Fitzgerald, former Deputy Commissioner of the Gardaí Síochána (Irish National Police). Staff are being assembled to support the Commissioners in their work. We are grateful for the timely support of your Government. We continue our efforts to raise funds from Member States.

The Commission will carry out its responsibilities within its mandate. The mandate of the Commission to inquire into the facts and circumstances of the assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto does not extend to a criminal investigation. The duty of determining criminal responsibility for the assassination remains with your authorities. I am confident that you will agree that this is an important distinction to be made by both your Government and the United Nations to ensure that the public understands our respective roles. The Commission will submit its report to me within six months of the commencement of its activities. I will share the report with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and submit it to the Security Council. I would greatly appreciate it if the United Nations and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan could closely cooperate to ensure that their respective public statements on the scope and substance of the Commission, as described here, are consistent.

His Excellency
Mr. Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Islamabad



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In keeping with the Terms of Reference of the Commission of Inquiry, the Commission should be accorded the full cooperation of the Pakistani authorities, and be accorded the privileges, immunities and facilities necessary for the independent conduct of the inquiry, including freedom of access to all sources of information. In its dealings with the Secretariat during this period of establishing the Commission, your Government has provided substantial assistance, including security support.

I note that the anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister Bhutto is on 21 June 2009, and is a reminder of the tragic loss suffered by you and your country. The United Nations is committed to assisting the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by determining the facts and circumstances of her death.

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



BAN Ki-moon

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

19 June 2009

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar'.

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Abdullah Hussain Haroon
Permanent Representative of Pakistan
to the United Nations
New York

United Nations



Nations Unies

#1 PRIORITY

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

! URGENT

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Attached is a draft letter addressed to the President of Pakistan from the Secretary-General. The letter refers to the formal announcement and establishment of the Commission of Inquiry. It spells out the aim of the Commission and its broad TORs.

Your urgent consideration and approval of the letter for the Secretary-General's signature is requested.

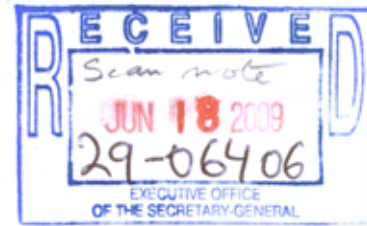
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'NH' or similar, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas Haysom
19 June 2009

cc: KWS

29-06406

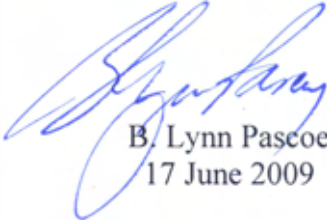
17.2.6.
ACTION NH
COPY VN
KWS



Note to Mr. Nambiar

Announcement and Letter on Launch of Bhutto Commission✓

1. As requested attached please find a draft announcement and letter from the Secretary-General to President Zardari of Pakistan in connection to the launch of the Commission of Inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
2. We have cleared the timing of the announcement on 19 June with DSS, given the heightened attention it may bring to the UN in Pakistan.

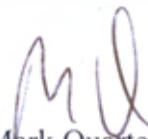

B. Lynn Pascoe
17 June 2009

Note to Mr. Pascoe
(Through Ms. Buttenheim)



Announcement and Letter on Launch of Bhutto Commission

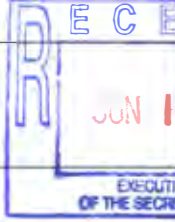
1. Attached please find a draft announcement and letter from the Secretary-General to President Zardari of Pakistan in connection to the launch of the **Commission** of Inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
2. The timing of the announcement and letter on 19 June was agreed by the Secretary-General based on the request of President Zardari.



Mark Quarterman
17 June 2009

DPA/USG/09 02031

BLP
SS

ROUTING SLIP		FICHE DE TRANSMISSION	
TO: A: Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, USG /DPA			
FROM: DE: Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Director, MEWAD/DPA			
Room No. –No de bureau: S-3312 A	Extension – Poste: 3-5288	Date: 17 June 2009	
FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER	
FOR APPROVAL	X	POUR APPROBATION	
FOR SIGNATURE	X	POUR SIGNATURE	
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS	
MAY WE DISCUSS?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?	
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION	
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU	
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE	
RETURN		RETOURNER	
FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION	

MESSAGE:

Attached please find for your approval a draft announcement and letter from the Secretary-General to the President of Pakistan. A transmittal letter is included.

Also attached for your approval and signature is a Note to Mr. Nambiar.

Contact: Brian Vitunic 3 5424

SG Letter: S:\Pakistan\CoI -Bhutto\Letter SG to President Zardari 19 June 2009.doc

Statement: S:\Pakistan\CoI -Bhutto\Statement re launch of CoI.doc

Transmittal: S:\Pakistan\CoI -Bhutto\Transmittal letter Pakistan June 09.doc

Note to EOSG: S:\Pakistan\CoI -Bhutto\Note to EOSG - Bhutto Commission - 17 June 09.doc