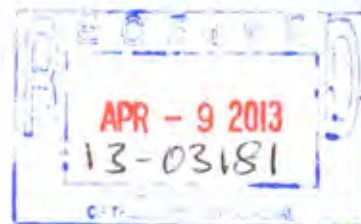


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Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Letter from H.E. Mr. Nicholas Emiliou, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus, regarding the provisional stationing in Cyprus of the UN Mission to Investigate Allegations of Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria

1. Please find attached a letter dated 9 April from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. The letter is in response to a letter by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs dated 4 April 2013, which is also attached for your ease of reference.

Virginia Gamba
Officer-in-Charge
Office for Disarmament Affairs
9 April 2013

Cc: Mr. Eliasson
Ms. Kane
Mr. Feltman
Ms. O'Brien



DIS/03/003



*Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations*

09 April 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 4 April 2013, regarding the announcement by the Secretary General on his decision to conduct an investigation into allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the need expressed in the said communication for the appointed Mission to be provisionally stationed in the UNFICYP Headquarters in Cyprus.

I am writing, upon instructions from my Government, noting the request for the Mission to be provisionally stationed in Cyprus and to express my Government's support and readiness, in principle, to assist the Secretary General in his endeavour.

For this purpose, the competent authorities in Cyprus are currently closely examining, as a matter of urgency, the "understandings" cited in your recent letter. I will convey the Government's response on the specific facilitations requested once this examination has been completed.

I hereby kindly request that, in the meantime, my Government be consulted on and informed of issues that could be of direct concern to it by virtue of Cyprus becoming the station and transit point for the Mission in developing the latter's mandate.

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

Nicholas Emiliou

H.E. Mrs. Angela Kane
Under-Secretary-General
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
Secretariat Building, Room S-3174
New York

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OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

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UN OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

TEL.: 1 (212) 963.2411 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4066

REFERENCE:

4 April 2013

Excellency,

As you know, on 21 March the Secretary-General announced his decision to conduct an investigation into allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretary-General has secured the cooperation of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as well as the World Health Organization. He has also appointed Professor Åke Sellström of Sweden to head the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria (the Mission).

It is vitally important for the Mission to commence its work as soon as possible. In the light of the current security conditions in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Mission may need to be provisionally stationed in the UNFICYP Headquarters in Cyprus while transiting in and out of Syria.

The Secretary-General would highly appreciate the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in this important endeavour and counts on your continued support.

To facilitate the proper, safe and efficient conduct of the Mission, I wish to confirm the following understandings.

1. The Government shall apply to the Mission, its property, funds and assets and its members the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the General Convention) to which Cyprus is a party without reservation.
2. The Government shall exempt the Head and members of the Mission, and any other relevant persons deemed necessary for purposes of the Mission, from any visa regulations and will facilitate the entry into and departure from Cyprus, without delay or hindrance, of the Head and members of the Mission, with their equipment and samples.

His Excellency
Mr. Nicholas Emiliou
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations
New York

3. The Government shall extend to:
 - (a) The Head of the Mission and other high-ranking members of the Mission that may be designated by the Secretary-General, the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities which are enjoyed by diplomatic envoys in accordance with international law;
 - (b) The Officials of the United Nations assigned to the Mission, the privileges and immunities set out in Articles V and VII of the General Convention;
 - (c) All members of the Mission, including OPCW and WHO personnel and other experts assigned to the Mission, the privileges and immunities accorded to experts on mission under Articles VI and VII of the General Convention, in addition to any privileges and immunities that may already be applicable to them.
4. The Government agrees to grant promptly all necessary authorizations, permits and licenses required for the import of equipment, provisions, supplies, fuel, materials, as well as other goods, including spare parts and means of transport, for the exclusive and official use of the Mission, free of any import prohibitions and restrictions and without the payment of monetary contributions or duties, fees, charges or taxes, including value-added tax. The Government likewise agrees to grant promptly all necessary authorizations, permits and licenses required for the purchase or export of such equipment, provisions, supplies, fuel, materials, as well as other goods, free of any prohibitions and restrictions and without the payment of monetary contributions, duties, fees, charges or taxes.
5. In the event that the Mission is no longer stationed in the UNFICYP Headquarters, the Government shall assist the Mission in obtaining, for as long as may be required, such areas for headquarters and other premises as may be necessary for the conduct of the Mission, including the establishment of the necessary facilities for maintaining communications in accordance with paragraph 7 below. Such premises shall be inviolable and subject to the exclusive control and authority of the United Nations.
6. The Mission and its members, together with their property, equipment, samples, provisions, supplies, materials and other goods, including spare parts, as well as vehicles, vessels and aircraft, shall enjoy full and unrestricted freedom of movement without delay and free of any form of taxes, charges, duties or tolls or licensing and registration requirements.
7. The Mission will have the right to unrestricted communication by radio, satellite or other means of communication, and to connect to the United Nations, OPCW and WHO radio and satellite network, as well as by telephone, electronic mail, facsimile or any other means.



8. The Mission may arrange for security guards and related services without prejudice to the Government's responsibility for the security and safety of the Mission and its members while on Cypriot territory.

I appreciate your country's invaluable support and look forward to receiving your written confirmation that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is prepared to provide the foregoing assistance to ensure the timely and efficient conduct of the work of the Mission.

In light of the urgency of our request, an early reply would be greatly appreciated.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Angela Kane'.

Angela Kane
High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs