

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

TALKING POINTS FOR RED CROSS DINNER

Geneva, 16 June 2014

19:05

Dear Friends,

*It is great to see all of you again. Welcome to this second anniversary of our 50th reunion!

*I know you have had a full day. Geneva is the second home to the United Nations. I hope you enjoyed your visit around the city.

*Let me thank Mr. Karol Skornik (Poland) for all of his hard work in organizing this gathering.

<Justin Ambiehl>
Chang Wook Joo

I would like to recognize those who are here today
and attending one of our reunions for the first time:

Mr. Colin Duerden (Canada); **Ms. Jocelyn Jones** (New Zealand).

(Brown)

* I have just arrived from a long flight from South America.

*I attended the **World Cup** in Brazil. Then I went to a summit
in **Bolivia** with the largest group of developing countries
called the **G-77**.

**This gathering in Geneva is our own summit –
and our own World Cup!**

**We have more than three dozen participants from 18 countries
– and we keep growing.**

Let me welcome all the family members and friends joining us.

***I just had the honour of hosting my host mother,
Mrs. Patterson, during her most recent visit to New York.
Yes, she still travels cross-country.**

She is 97 years-old and going strong. In fact,
her driver's license has just been extended until 2019!

I think that is a good sign for all of us.
We may not be related but we have the same VISTA genes!

And so this feels like a family reunion –
with my fellow VISTA brothers and sisters.

***Something very meaningful has happened since our 50th anniversary. Our network of friendship has grown even stronger.**

**I can't always respond to every message,
but I follow all the communications very closely.**

***We are continuing to add to the memories that began more than 50 years ago, and that is a wonderful thing.**

The VISTA trip helped all of us see the world in new ways.

The lessons we learned together have guided me through my life.

***Our reunion is a clear proof that friendships cross national boundaries.**

And it is also proof that our journey continues.

*** I thought I would provide a brief update on some of my journeys over the past year.**

In January, I visited Syrian refugees in Iraq and travelled to Cuba for the first time.

In February, I attended the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

*(UKraine is the longest ally w/ Janukovich
Museum Putin)*
In March, I visited Greenland to highlight the dangers of climate change and also went to Sierra Leone to showcase a UN success story. With the help of the international community, a country that had been trapped in a brutal war has recovered and is now sending their own peacekeepers around the world.

In April, I went to the Central African Republic and marked the 20th anniversary of genocide in Rwanda.

~~South Sudan~~
And last month, I went to China and met with the leadership and also travelled to the Vatican for my second meeting with the Pope.

* Next year is a crucial one for the United Nations.

We have three important milestones.

70th Anniv. of UN

First, the end of the Millennium Development Goals.

Second, the launching of a new framework rooted in sustainable development.

Third, leaders have agreed to finalize a new climate change agreement.

If we work hard and keep ambition high, we can succeed in these efforts and set the world on a safer, more just and sustainable path.

It will take Member States to really recognize the need to work together.

✓ **That is of course the VISTA spirit.**

|| ***As President Kennedy told us, there is nothing more important than people of different communities and cultures working together to improve our world.**

He said that our group helped provide “a very good reminder to all of us what hopes we can have for the future.”

**Thank you once again for being here and for celebrating
with us that remarkable, life-changing moment
52 years ago.**

Thank you for your friendship and support.

**Please join me in a toast: to good health ... to long life ...
and to new vistas!**

[END]