



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 November 2007

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 July 2007 from Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), addressed to me regarding the piracy problem off the coast of Somalia, with a request to bring the letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

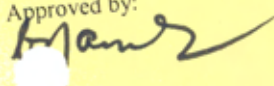
In my response to Mr. Mitropoulos, dated 20 August, I informed him that before inviting the Security Council, as indicated in his letter, to request the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to take action on this issue, I had directed my then Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. François Fall to raise the issue with the Government directly. I specified that Mr. Fall would engage with the Government to identify more precisely what bilateral arrangements already existed, what the specific needs or requirements of the Government were, and what technical capacity was required.

Subsequently, Mr. Fall reported that the Government underscored that it did not have the capacity to combat the piracy problem. Furthermore, the Government was not currently engaged in any bilateral arrangements but welcomed international assistance to address the problem.

Since then, I have raised the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia in my reports to the Council, which has itself referred to the issue in its most recent resolution 1772 (2007). I plan to convey this information in a letter to Mr. Mitropoulos, with the suggestion that IMO send a delegation to Nairobi and Somalia to discuss the specific requirements of the TFG in order to enhance its capacity to combat piracy. My new Special Representative, Mr. Ould Abdallah, stands ready to facilitate such engagement.

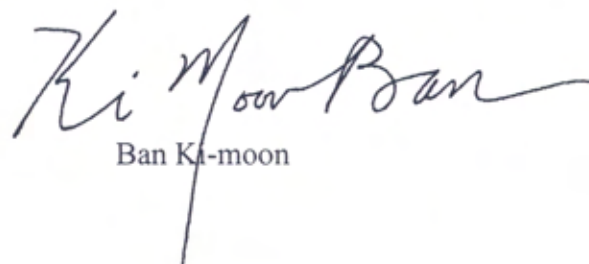
His Excellency
Mr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa
President of the Security Council
New York

Pres SECCO (IMO)
Drafter: DPA
Proofread by: JL/MZ
Approved by:


Date: 9 Nov. 2007

In the meantime and pursuant to a further letter from Mr. Mitropoulos, dated 18 September 2007, I should be grateful if you could bring the attached letters from the IMO to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ban Ki-moon