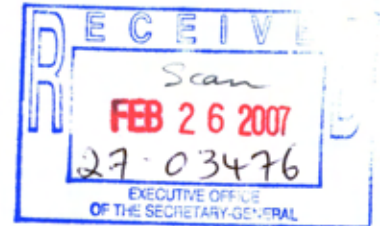


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NOTE TO THE CHEF DE CABINET

Request to open the exhibit
"Lest We Forget -- The Triumph Over Slavery"

As you are aware, on 28 November 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/19 designating 25 March 2007 as the International Day for the Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and requesting the Secretary-General to establish an outreach programme to appropriately mark the bicentenary.

As its principal contribution, DPI will display in the Visitors' Lobby an exhibit, "*Lest We Forget -- The Triumph Over Slavery*." Sponsored with CARICOM in association with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, it illustrates the cultural, political, economic and social practices of enslaved Africans while enduring the dehumanizing conditions of slavery and will be seen by visitors who pass through the Lobby and whose total, as you know, numbers more than a million each year.

We would be honoured if the Secretary-General could formally inaugurate this exhibit on 1 March. We understand Ambassador Sealy, current Chair of the CARICOM Caucus, will also be writing to the Secretary-General in this regard.

In order to exert the least amount of pressure on the Secretary-General's time, we would propose to have statements by the exhibit sponsors and other invitees from 6.15 p.m. to 6.30 p.m., followed by a reception jointly hosted by CARICOM and the Permanent Mission of India. It is our hope that the Secretary-General could formally inaugurate the exhibit and say a few words at any point convenient to him during the reception, which will continue until 7.45 p.m. His presence, and, we hope, that of Mrs. Ban, would, of course, be welcome for as long as his schedule permits.

Shashi Tharoor
23 February 2007

