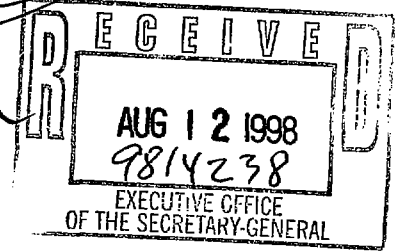


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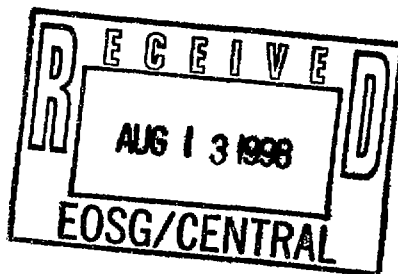
Note to Mr. Riza



**Subject:** Update on UN negotiations with the Taliban

We have received some mildly encouraging information from the United Nations team which is currently negotiating with the Taliban in Kabul to resolve outstanding humanitarian issues. The discussions have focused thus far on the recent expulsion of international NGOs from Kabul. The team reports that the Taliban are leaning towards a compromise which would allow the international NGOs to return to their premises in Kabul and resume their activities. Outstanding issues between the Taliban and the NGOs, including possible relocation, would then be addressed in an NGO/Taliban technical committee which would begin discussions on 17 August 1998.

The NGO advisory cell, which accompanied the United Nations Team to Kabul, has agreed to this approach. The JCC negotiations will resume tomorrow and it is hoped that agreement on the NGO issue will be achieved. I will keep you advised of further developments.



*Kevin M. Kennedy*

Kevin M. Kennedy  
Officer-in-Charge, OCHA  
11 August 1998

cc: The Deputy-Secretary-General  
Mr. Prendergast  
Mr. Brahimi

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