



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

File/Congrats

18 January 2007

Dear Mr. Stoudmann,

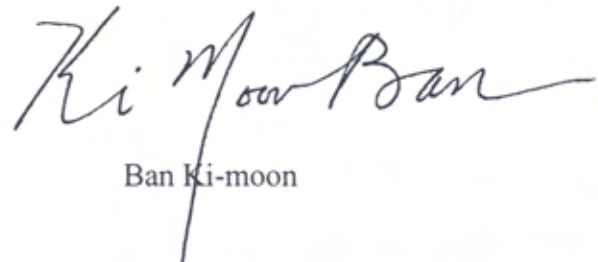
I write on taking office as Secretary-General to thank you for your kind words and good wishes. I am deeply heartened to know that I have your support as I undertake the vast responsibilities before me.

As you know, I assume my duties at a time of daunting challenges in world affairs -- from the range of crises troubling our world to the need to defend human rights and move forward in reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Yet I also know that the demands placed on the United Nations demonstrate that our Organization is very much alive, that it is on the front line in addressing crises and giving hope to people around the world, and that it is a force to be reckoned with, among Governments and people everywhere.

I am determined to do all in my power to ensure that our United Nations can live up to those high expectations, and carry out effectively the ever more global role which Member States have entrusted to it. By strengthening the three pillars of the United Nations -- security, development and human rights, all underpinned by the rule of law -- we can build a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world for succeeding generations. In that effort, I will seek to act as a harmonizer and bridge-builder, and do all I can to restore trust in the Organization.

I am reassured to know that in that endeavour, I will have your support.

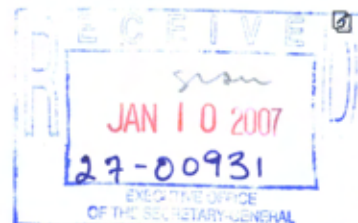
Yours sincerely,


Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Gérard Stoudmann
High Representative of the United Nations
for Elections in Côte d'Ivoire
Abidjan



+22506206067



NATIONS UNIES
Bureau du
Haut Représentant pour les Elections
en Côte d'Ivoire



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UNITED NATIONS
Office of the
High Representative for Elections
in Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 6 January 2007

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Compliments

I would like to take the opportunity of the beginning of both your tenure and the new year to extend to you my very best wishes for the important challenges you have assumed as well as for your health and your family's. As your High Representative for Elections in Côte d'Ivoire, I have the honour to serve the UN in a challenging post-crisis environment and this is no doubt a very enriching experience. I am also pleased that you spoke last June at the Geneva Center for Security Policy which I directed until recently. I regret that, due to my temporary absence then, I was not able to welcome you personally.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you soon, hopefully on the occasion of my next report to headquarters in New York.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Gérard Stoudmann

High Representative of the United Nations
For Elections in Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York