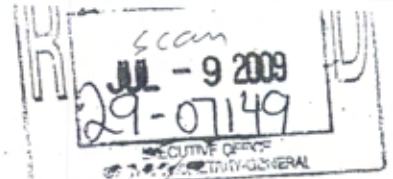


ACTION
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Note to Mr. Nambiar



MEETING OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS ON MYANMAR - 8 July 2009

1. As requested by the Secretary-General, I convened and briefed on his behalf a meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar today on the outcome of his visit to Myanmar. The discussion was constructive and reflected more consensus than disagreement among members who were unanimous on several points. All members strongly supported the Secretary-General's decision to visit Myanmar, with many, including the P3, calling his visit "courageous". Although all members (except China) expressed regret that the Government did not allow a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK), they unanimously felt that the visit was worthwhile and that criticism in the media was misplaced as it should fall on the Government and not on the UN. They agreed that the visit should not be judged mainly or solely on whether or not he met ASSK, and that it was very valuable that he was able to directly convey clear messages both privately to the Senior General, and publicly through his speech to a broader audience. Members also expressed support for the Secretary-General's offer of UN assistance on a broad range of issues, with a realization that Myanmar's problems are complex and multidimensional, and do not depend on a single person or issue. There was also strong appreciation of the Secretary-General's good offices efforts, my own role, and a clear message that the good offices engagement must continue, and that the international community must continue to encourage Myanmar to respond positively.

2. Members agreed that it was too early to render any judgment on the outcome of the visit. I stressed in my briefing that the ball was in the court of the Government, and most members agreed that there was a need to wait and see if and how the ball would be returned. Members agreed on the need to see the good offices, including the Secretary-General's engagement, as a process to be measured in the aggregate and not as the result of one visit. Some (US, UK) noted the need to avoid that such process becomes open-ended. The P3, other Western countries and Japan indicated that the lack of positive response from Myanmar, or an undesirable verdict in ASSK's trial, would be cause for further action on their part. The P3 noted that they hoped for a briefing by the Secretary-General to the Security Council upon his return. Russia and China indicated that they found the Group of Friends format to be very useful.

3. Almost all members asked what next steps would involve, and asked how the members of the Group could further support the Secretary-General and his good offices. I indicated that the next steps would depend in part on the Friends themselves, particularly those in the region and with influence. I said that ASEAN initiatives and those such as the Focus Group would be more important than ever. I also indicated that the Secretary-General's proposal of Myanmar joining a high-level Group of Friends on the margins of the General Debate would be another step, as well as possibly a meeting of a Group of Friends in the region (as suggested by Norway).

Ibrahim Gambari
8 July 2009

cc.: Mr. Pascoe
Mr. Kim

→ NH

16/07

46/5, 17/3

Previous to
C29-07078

Note to Mr. Nambiar

Feedback from the Secretary-General to the 9 July 2009 cable sent in L'Aquila

I am herewith relaying the feedback of the Secretary-General to the 9 July 2009 cable sent to him while in L'Aquila (CDC/006/07/2009).

1. For the Secretary-General's signature

- Note of 29 June 2009 from Mr. Orr transmitting the draft **decision memo and summary record of discussion of the 23 June Policy Committee meeting on Sri Lanka**, for the Secretary-General's signature [29-06447].

→ Signed by SG.

2. For the Secretary-General's attention

- **Update Note** from the Political Unit dated **9 July 2008** [29-07148]

→ Noted by SG.

- Note of 8 July 2009 from **Mr. Gambari** providing an account of the **meeting of the Group of Friends on Myanmar** which he convened on behalf of SG on 8 July [29-07149].

→ Noted by SG.

- Note of 2 July 2009 from **Mr. Kell and Mr. Pasztor** updating the Secretary-General on the **preparations for the United Nations Private Sector Forum** to be held on 22 September 2009 in connection with the **Summit on Climate Change** [29-06813].

→ Noted by SG.

3. For the Secretary-General's information

- **Response letter** of the Secretary-General dated 9 July to Norwegian **Prime Minister Stoltenberg**, regarding **SG's upcoming visit to Norway** [29-06914].

→ Seen by SG

- Signed Congratulatory letter of SG dated 9 July to the **newly-elected IAEA Director General, Mr. Amano** [29-06917].

→ Seen by SG.

- **SG's Letter** dated 9 July to **Ms. Leacock, Chairperson of the World AIDS Campaign** in response to the letter sent to him on 16 June on behalf of The World AIDS Campaign Steering Committee [29-06397].

→ Seen by SG.



Yeocheol Yoon
16 July 2009

cc: - Mr. Kim Won-soo

carlog # 29-07465