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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

9 May 2007

Dear Mr. Sallam,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letters to their addressees.

Copies of the letters are attached for your information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Vijay Nambiar  
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Abdullatif H. Sallam  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia  
to the United Nations  
New York

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Your Majesty,

I write to express my profound gratitude for the warm reception extended to me and my delegation during my visit to Saudi Arabia to participate in the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States in May at Riyadh. I was touched by the graciousness with which we were received and by the generous support provided to us throughout the duration of our stay.

I should like to express my deep appreciation to you for your leadership and personal commitment to ensuring that the Arab Summit contributed to progress on many of the thorniest issues before us, including on the Middle East peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative. I assure you that I am personally determined to making the achievement of peace and stability in the Middle East a key priority of my agenda, and to engaging all parties concerned in dialogue.

I would further like to pay tribute to your leadership and personal involvement in using the valuable occasion of the Summit to address the crisis in Darfur. I believe that your initiative to convene a mini-summit with President Omar A. Al-Bashir, Chairman Alpha Oumar Konaré and Secretary-General Amre Moussa provided us with a critical opportunity for a frank exchange that resulted in a clear basis for the way forward on a hybrid operation in Darfur. It is essential that we now build on the hope and commitments reached in Riyadh on the many issues faced in the region, and I look forward to our continued close cooperation as we search for progress.


The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques  
King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
of Saudi Arabia  
Riyadh

My sincere gratitude also goes out to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for providing my delegation with a special aircraft on my recent visit to Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. I cannot express how much I appreciate your kind assistance. My visit would not have been possible without the support and effort of your Government and the crew of Saudi Arabian Airlines.

In closing, I should like once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our deep appreciation to you and the competent authorities for making our visit to Saudi Arabia so successful. I should also like to thank you for the gifts you presented to me and my wife as lovely reminders of my visit to your country.

Please accept, Your Majesty, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With my warmest appreciation and respect,*

  
Ban Kimoon



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Your Royal Highness,

I write to express my profound gratitude for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality during my recent and first visit to Saudi Arabia as Secretary-General in March on the occasion of the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States in Riyadh. I was honoured to address the opening session of the Arab Summit, and am particularly grateful for the excellent arrangements made for my visit, as well as for courtesies afforded to me and my entire delegation during our brief stay.

I greatly value the opportunity to have been able to discuss with you, privately and frankly, a broad range of pressing peace and security issues in the region, including the Middle East peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative. I am further grateful to have been able to seek your counsel and assistance on addressing the crises in Somalia and Darfur. I view our close relationship with great importance and will be mindful of your views on issues of international prominence. It is within this context that it was therefore a further pleasure to meet with you again in Sharm El Sheikh only last week.

I wish to congratulate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the assumption of the Chair of the Arab League at this hopeful yet fragile moment for the region. I hereby assure you of the close cooperation of the United Nations with the Arab League on achieving progress towards issues of mutual concern.

My sincere gratitude also goes out to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for providing my delegation with a special aircraft on my recent visit to Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. I cannot express how much I appreciate your kind assistance. My visit would not have been possible without the support and effort of your Government and the crew of Saudi Arabian Airlines.

His Royal Highness  
Prince Saud Al-Faisal  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Riyadh

In closing, I should like once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our appreciation to you and your able staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for making our visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia so successful. I should like, in particular, to extend my warm thanks to Mr. Waleed T. Radwan, Minister Plenipotentiary, for his tireless efforts in ensuring my visit proceeded so smoothly, at a time of great demand on the competent authorities.

Please accept, Your Royal Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With my deep appreciation and regards,*

  
Ban Ki-moon