

EOSG

DM

Note to Ms. Montas



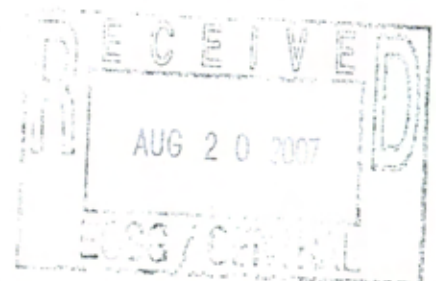
Re: Media traveling with the Secretary-General

Please find attached an exchange of correspondence between Mr. Nambiar and Ms. Bárcena regarding the arrangements to be made for journalists traveling with the Secretary-General and the Security Council. In light of the Department of Management's position, do you believe it would be useful to convene a meeting between the Department of Management, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General?

Many thanks.

Ingrid Hayden
20 August 2007

27-09585





AUG - 1 2007

27-09585

to: Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet
A: Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 31 July 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General
DE: Department of Management

SUBJECT: Media traveling with the Secretary-General

OBJET:

1. This is with reference to your memorandum dated 22 June 2007 regarding the arrangements to be made for journalists travelling with the Secretary-General and the Security Council.
2. In this connection, the Travel and Transportation Section will work with the Office of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General (OSSG) to assist the concerned journalists with the issuance of non-US visa and the booking of air travel at their expense.
3. The assistance to be provided will be limited by the fact that these individuals cannot be considered as staff members of the United Nations and that they travel on their national passports rather than UNLPs. The Office of Legal Affairs advised that journalists traveling with the Secretary-General and the Security Council have to be considered completely independent of the United Nations and their travel cannot be considered as official travel.
4. As a result, the United Nations will not be able to request the issuance of visas for the journalists in line with the procedures used for UN staff and will not be in a position to issue the usual Note Verbale addressed to the consulates and embassies of member states for them. Since non-UN travellers are also frequently subject to fees for visas, the Travel and Transportation Section will be in the difficult position to facilitate payments for the journalists. Different from travelling UN staff, journalists may be subject to personal appearance requirements and may need to provide an inventory of equipment carried by them (i.e. cameras, microphones, sound recording devices etc.) These complications add a significant time factor to the provision of visas and will require the assignment of additional resources to the servicing of the party of the Secretary-General and the Security Council.

5. The Travel and Transportation Section will work with the OSSG to ensure that travel arrangements for members of the media will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

cc: Mr. Lynn Pascoe
Mr. David Veness
Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka
Mr. Won-soo Kim
Ms. Michele Montas
Mr. Michael Meyer

TO: Ms. Alicia Barcena

DATE: 22 June 2007

A: Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Management

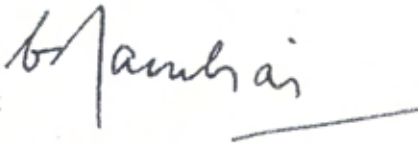
Mr. Lynn Pascoe
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Mr. David Veness
Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Vijay Nambiar
DE: Chef de Cabinet



SUBJECT: Media traveling with the Secretary-General

OBJET:

- i. The Secretary-General has made it a priority to have journalists accompany him on official travel, whenever logistically feasible.
- ii. The journalists traveling with the Secretary-General will be vetted by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General (OSSG).
- iii. Once chosen, journalists will be considered as part of the Secretary General's delegation, listed as official traveling press.
- iv. Prior to departure the visa office, the travel office, the medical service and security will extend to those journalists the same service as UN staff traveling with the Secretary-General. OSSG will coordinate the journalists' contact with these offices to make it as efficient as possible.
- v. During the trip, journalists will be provided with transportation and accommodations. Journalists will be responsible for the full cost of commercial flights and hotels which the travel office will book.
- vi. The same principles as listed above shall apply to journalists traveling with Security Council delegations. If the Security Council member leading the trip wishes to take journalists along, the Security Council Support Division should accommodate them.

cc: Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka
Mr. Won-soo Kim
Ms. Michele Montas
Mr. Michael Meyer

Note to Mr. Nambiar

As you know the Secretary-General is very keen on having journalists accompany him on official travel, whenever it is logistically feasible.

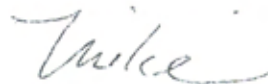
Having press along builds a lot of good will for the Secretary-General. He is able to interact with journalists one-on-one, building bonds that matter. More, the journalists get to see the SG in action--how he thinks, how he operates, what he hopes to achieve and the tactics he's deploying to get there. For an SG who's still a bit of a mystery man to the media-- most of whom have little idea what a tough-minded, can-do guy he is -- this represents a big opportunity. We must seize it.

I believe the SG has a pretty good sense of the benefits from his first visits to African and the Middle East. Here's the rub, though. Up to now, the Spokesperson's office has been struggling to get the visa office, travel and security to extend to the travelling press the same pre-trip service official members of the delegation enjoy. While OSSG has, on occasion, managed to get the visa office to handle visas for the press, that office now tells us that it will no longer do so. The travel office has said the same.

To be sure, these folks are as hard-pressed for time as the rest of us. But dissing the journalists -- and, worse, discouraging them from accompanying the SG on his travels -- does not serve our interests in any way. It is important that when we encourage journalists to travel with the SG that they be treated as our guests. They pay their own way, of course, but they must be treated as part of our official delegation.

There is also an issue with press travelling with the Security Council on field missions. While the ambassadors want the journalists along, we've seen an occasional unwillingness from DPA's Security Council Affairs Division (as well as the visa section) to accommodate them. Example: two correspondents scheduled to accompany the Security Council delegation this week had to cancel after being unable to obtain the necessary visas on time.

I think it would help if you sent a memo to DM, DPA and DSS explaining the SG's policy on travelling press, stressing its importance to our over-all communications mission, and requesting their cooperation.



Michael Meyer
14 June 2007