

Syria

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## NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### Meeting with Syrian Ambassador Ja'afari

1. I met today at his request with Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari, Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations. He said that he wanted to first express his country's satisfaction at your visit to Syria and at the meetings which took place in Sharm El Sheikh. He particularly expressed the hope "to see the promises of the Secretary-General to strengthen his role within the Quartet fulfilled". He went on to stress that his country believed that you had a crucial role to play within the Quartet in support of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Addressing the broader aspects of the peace process, the Ambassador stressed that Syria did not believe that Israel was "honest". In his view, Israel was actually "weak and divided". Instead of committing to a genuine peace process, Israel was "organizing its biggest military maneuver against the Syrian Golan". The Ambassador's alarmist tone increased when he expressed concern at an alleged "Israeli intention to launch a new war against Lebanon and Syria in the summer". For these reasons, he felt that more pressure ought to be exerted on Israel. "The spiral of violence could worsen, especially if Israel decided to attack Iran" Ambassador Ja'afari averred.

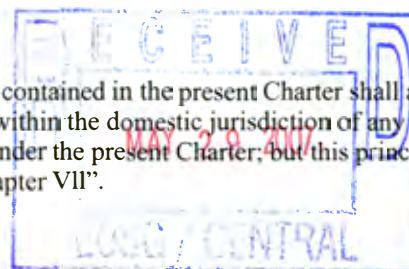
2. Reverting to the main reasons of his call on me today, the Ambassador said he had asked to see me to raise two issues: i) the logical framework for the budget of Mr. Larsen and ii) Resolution 1559 and related aspects to it.

### **Logical framework of the Special Envoy for the implementation of Resolution 1559**

3. The Ambassador stressed that Syria felt concerned with the current draft of the logical framework for the budget of Mr. Larsen, in particular because he felt that his earlier remarks on the subject had not been taken into consideration. To him, an unnecessary connection had been made between Resolution 1559 and Resolution 1701. Why refer to Resolution 1701 when discussing implementation of Resolution 1559? Why create such a connection when the Secretary-General had appointed two separate Envoys to work these resolutions? The mandates were clearly different, the Ambassador argued.

4. The logical framework – which Syria did not consider "logical", the Ambassador added – involved indicators of achievements "in such a way that it violates para. 7 of Article 2 of the UN Charter<sup>1</sup>, which forbids the United Nations from interfering in the domestic affairs of a sovereign State". Looking at the framework as it currently stood, the Ambassador believed that the Secretary-General was "trapped in a language that went beyond the UN Charter". This, he felt, had been done purposely. He recalled that he had met three weeks ago [on 4 May] with Mr. Sach who "had promised to send a memo to the Chef de Cabinet with respect to the concerns of Syria regarding the logical framework". He regretted however that "nothing had been done so far" [A memo from Mr. Sach to Mr. Pascoe copying me was sent on 7 May; see attached document].

<sup>1</sup> Article 2, para. 7 of the UN Charter reads as follows: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII".



5. Citing the latest version of the review of logical frameworks for special political missions for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (A/61/890 – attached), the Ambassador regretted that the views of Syria had not been taken into account. He then handed over a new version of document A/61/525 highlighting in bold the **amendments proposed by Syria** (attached).

6. Ambassador Ja'afari then referred to GA resolution A/RES/61/252 which recalls that the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that, in presenting the programme budget, **indicators of achievement are measured in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States** (article 6). He asserted though that the contrary was currently happening: the current version of the logical framework was citing by name the country of Syria in page 20 of the document (A/61/252/Add.1). The following indicator of achievements was mentioned: "increased efforts towards the establishment of mutual diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and the delineation of the international boundaries of Lebanon, *in particular of those with the Syrian Arab Republic*". "Naming and shaming Syria on a document prepared by the Secretariat" was, in the view of the Ambassador, "unacceptable". "The UN should not interfere in a situation of peace between Syria and Lebanon".

## **Syria-Lebanon**

7. The Permanent Representative also recalled that he had sent on 3 May a note verbale to you drawing your attention to the concerns of Syria with regard to the logical framework for the budget of Mr. Larsen. The Ambassador regretted that this **framework had ignored Israeli intelligence activities in Lebanon** aimed at assassinating Lebanese officials. Instead, the framework was focusing on border demarcation "as if Syria and Lebanon were in a state of war". In the same vein, the Ambassador believed that the issue of diplomatic relations between Syria and Lebanon was a bilateral matter. In this regard, he cited article 4 of Resolution 1680 which stressed in its last sentence: "the establishment of diplomatic relations between States takes place by mutual consent"<sup>2</sup>. **The Ambassador believed that the present logical framework contained language that violated Security Council resolutions, while it was meant to focus on purely technical aspects.** He added that there was time to reflect changes in the draft logical framework, as **a corrigendum could still be introduced "until next week"**. He repeated that at no cost would Syria accept to be singled out in a document elaborated by the Secretariat and threatened that his delegation could well block the approval process in the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee the

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<sup>2</sup> Resolution S/RES/1680, para. 4 reads as follows: "[The Security Council] *strongly encourages* the Government of Syria to respond positively to the request made by the Government of Lebanon, in line with the agreements of the Lebanese national dialogue, to delineate their common border, especially in those areas where the border is uncertain or disputed and to establish full diplomatic relations and representation, noting that such measures would constitute a significant step towards asserting Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and improving the relations between the two countries, thus contributing positively to the stability in the region, and urges both parties to make efforts through further bilateral dialogue to this end, bearing in mind that the establishment of diplomatic relations between States, and of permanent diplomatic missions, takes place by mutual consent".

same way it had done in the past, maybe expanding its blockage on issues that are not related to Syrian-Lebanese issues - even to peacekeeping operations questions.

8. Ambassador Ja'afari mentioned that he had sent a note verbale on 11 May attaching a list of meetings of joint Syrian-Lebanese commissions. The text of this note was circulated today to the Council in English (original attached). Elaborating on this list of meetings, the Ambassador stressed that high level officials from Syria and Lebanon had met on the occasion of such joint commissions nine times in less than a year, to discuss the monitoring of the border and the prevention of arms smuggling. "This proves that there is no problem of borders between Syria and Lebanon" Ambassador Ja'afari concluded, asking that your attention be drawn to this matter in particular.

9. He then referred to another note verbale sent to you on 4 May providing a list of weapons and ammunitions allegedly smuggled from Lebanon into Syria between 26 April 2005 until the present period. In this regard, Ambassador Ja'afari was appreciative of the fact that this matter was mentioned in your latest report on resolution 1559. "But this is not enough" he said "Syria should not be singled out. We too are the victims. The attention is being deviated too much from the real problems on the ground, namely the continued Israeli violation of Resolutions 1559 and 1701".

10. I said to Ambassador Ja'afari that I taken due note of his concerns and committed to convey them to the appropriate quarters. I also indicated I would be in touch with Mr. Sach and Mr. Pascoe in this regard in order to try and find a satisfactory solution to the matter.

*Vijay Nambiar*

Vijay Nambiar  
5 May 2007

CdC		SG	
For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>16/05</i>	Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>26/05</i>
For SG's information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	<i>16.05.2007</i>	Date	
Comment (if applicable):			

cc: - Mr. Lynn B. Pascoe  
- Mr. Warren Sach  
- Mr. Kim Won-soo  
- Mr. Andrew Gilmour