

9 May 2007

Your Majesty,

I write following my visit to the Middle East region on the occasion of the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States in Riyadh to express my profound gratitude for the warm reception my delegation and I received on our brief visit to Jordan.

I am grateful you were able to meet me in the light of the heavy demands on your programme in advance of the Arab Summit. I greatly value the opportunity to have been able to take part in a frank and open exchange with you on so many pressing peace and security issues in the region, and was particularly grateful for your views on what we could realistically expect in terms of progress in the Middle East peace process, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iraq, and Lebanon. Your observations were especially valuable to me in the light of my further meetings with Arab leaders at the Summit in Riyadh. I should also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your efforts and commitment towards helping resolve the crisis in Darfur, and for the strong partnership between the United Nations and Jordan.

While my programme did not permit a longer visit to Jordan on this occasion, I very much hope to be able to visit your country again at a mutually suitable time. I look forward in the meantime to our continued cooperation on the many challenges in the region and beyond. I should like, once again, to thank you for your personal commitment to the search for peace and stability in the Middle East, and for the crucial role Jordan plays in the region as a force for peace and reform. I should also like, on behalf of my delegation, to again express our deep appreciation to you and the competent authorities for our brief but excellent visit.

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

*With my warmest appreciation,*

  
Ban Ki-moon

His Majesty  
King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein  
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
Amman



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Mr. Stevens,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team for their professionalism displayed in support of my brief visit to Jordan en route to participate in the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States in Riyadh.

The overall coordination of the visit was excellent, despite the landing of my airplane at the wrong airport! I would be grateful if you would please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked to ensure that my visit to Amman proceeded well.

Thank you also for your help in arranging the warm welcome I received from the United Nations Country Team in Amman. I enjoyed the opportunity to address our colleagues, and to share my priorities and views with them, as well as to seek their dedicated and continued support for our shared objectives. I am glad for the chance to have been able to discuss with you, although briefly, the crucial work of the United Nations in Jordan and wish you every success in your relatively new posting.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation, to your colleagues for contributing to the success of our visit.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Luc Stevens  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
Amman



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 Ki-moon



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





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Mr. Sallam,

I write following my first visit to Saudi Arabia as Secretary-General to participate in the 28-29 March Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States to thank you most sincerely for all your help in ensuring that my visit was a success. Your tireless efforts helped to make our work so much easier – from the early stages of planning the visit to your assistance in ensuring that everything ran smoothly while we were there. Please convey my deep appreciation to your colleagues in New York and in Riyadh for their dedicated efforts and for all of their assistance provided in support of my visit.

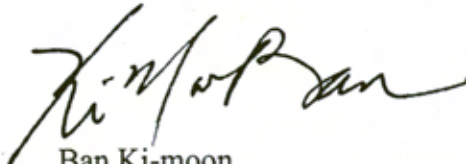
May I also take this opportunity to thank you for assisting my delegation on our recent visit to Sharm El Sheikh last week. We are sincerely grateful to the Government of Saudi Arabia for providing us with a special airplane which took us round trip from New York to Sharm El Sheikh for our visit. This visit would not have been possible without your kind assistance, and we thank your Government and all others who were involved in arranging the flights.

I was honoured to address the opening session of the Arab Summit, and to have had the opportunity to meet with His Royal Highness King Abdullah. I am grateful and to have discussed with him, and with other senior members of the Government of Saudi Arabia, a wide range of regional issues, including the Middle East peace process and the Arab Peace Initiative. I am also grateful to have participated in the mini-summits convened by both King Abdullah and Prince Saud al-Faysal on the crises in Somalia and Darfur, and to have had the occasion of the Summit to meet with many Arab leaders on the most pressing issues in the region, including Iraq and Lebanon.

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

I greatly value having had the opportunity to visit Saudi Arabia early in my tenure as Secretary-General, and would like once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our profound gratitude to you and the competent authorities for ensuring that our visit to Riyadh was so successful.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

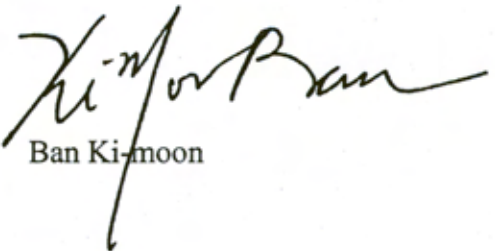
Dear Mr. Shamout,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team for the professionalism and unstinting efforts made in support of my first visit as Secretary-General to Saudi Arabia to participate in the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States.

The overall coordination of the visit was exceptional, and all organizational aspects were very well handled. I would be grateful if you would please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked so hard to ensure that my visit to Riyadh proceeded so smoothly. Please convey my special thanks to Ms. Rana Abo-Algasim for her tireless assistance and dedicated efforts in support of my programme of visit. It was a pleasure to meet you and your very capable staff in Saudi Arabia, albeit briefly.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation to your colleagues for contributing to the success of our visit.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Nasser Shamout  
UNDP Resident Representative a.i.  
Riyadh



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Dr. Mukhtar,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team for their professionalism and exceptional efforts made in support of my first visit as Secretary-General to Saudi Arabia to participate in the Eighth Summit of the League of Arab States.

The overall coordination of the visit was excellent, and all organizational aspects were very well handled. I would be grateful if you would please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked so hard to ensure that my visit to Riyadh proceeded so smoothly. Please convey my special thanks to Ms. Norah Al-Angary for her tireless assistance with my complex and detailed programme. It was a pleasure to meet you, albeit briefly, and I was proud to get acquainted with such dedicated staff in Saudi Arabia.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation to your colleagues and staff for contributing to the success of our visit.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

Dr. Awad Abu Zeid Mukhtar  
WHO Representative in Saudi Arabia  
Riyadh



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Excellency,

Following my first visit to Lebanon as Secretary-General, I write to express my profound gratitude for the warm reception and gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

I greatly value the opportunity to have been able to meet with you so early in my tenure, and to engage you and members of your Government in a frank and open exchange on the complex set of issues facing Lebanon. It was an honour for me to have heard your views on the political situation in the country, the establishment of the Special Court for Lebanon, and implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006). I was equally honoured to be able to discuss with you the concerns of Lebanon about its security, and the need for progress on the unresolved issue of the abducted soldiers and prisoners.

Although brief, our visit to Lebanon was most memorable, and I returned to New York with a first-hand account of the challenges that the Government and people of Lebanon face. I also returned convinced that the future of Lebanon and the resolution of its political crises lie in inclusive dialogue and the promotion of national reconciliation. I assure you that I am personally determined to making the issue of peace and stability in Lebanon and the Middle East key priorities of my agenda, and to engaging all concerned parties in dialogue. I should like to take this opportunity to again acknowledge the strong partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and Lebanon, and to reiterate the determination of the United Nations to continue to help Lebanon consolidate its sovereignty, independence, stability and security. I look forward to our continued close cooperation on the many challenging issues before us.

His Excellency  
Mr. Fouad Siniora  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon  
Beirut



On behalf of my delegation, I should like to once again express our appreciation to you and the competent authorities for making our visit to Beirut, as well as to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Headquarters in Naqoura, so successful. I should also like to express my gratitude for the delightful luncheon you hosted for me and my delegation at the Grand Serail, and for the gift you presented to me, which is a beautiful reminder of my visit to Lebanon.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With my deep admiration and regards,*

  
Ban Ki-moon



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Geir,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team for their professionalism and tireless efforts exerted in support of my first visit as Secretary-General to Lebanon.

The overall coordination of the visit was excellent, and all organizational aspects were very well handled. I would be grateful if you could please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked so hard to ensure that my visit proceeded so smoothly.

I am very grateful you were able to participate in my meetings with senior Government and other officials in Beirut, and to have accompanied me on my visit to Naqoura to meet with UNIFIL peacekeeping forces. I am also grateful for the opportunity to have been able to discuss with you the important work of the United Nations in Lebanon and the Middle East region and for the fact that you were able to join my delegation during the subsequent trip to the region only last month.

Thank you also for your help in arranging the warm welcome I received from the United Nations Country Team. It was an honour for me to address our colleagues and to learn of the different issues that concern them. I was proud to meet such excellent and dedicated staff.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation to your colleagues for contributing to the success of our visit.

With warm personal regards, *and best wishes*

  
Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Geir O. Pedersen  
Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General  
for Lebanon  
Beirut



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Major-General Graziano,

I write to thank you and the UNIFIL team for the very warm reception and their wonderful efforts made in support of my visit to Naqoura on 31 March to visit UNIFIL Headquarters.

The overall coordination of the visit was excellent, and all organizational aspects were very well handled. I would be grateful if you would please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team who worked so hard to ensure that my visit proceeded so smoothly.

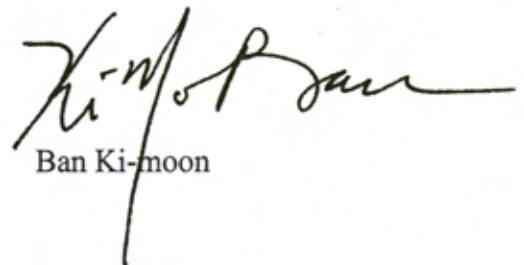
I was honoured to address both the military and civilian staff of UNIFIL and to have met with many of the different force contingents. I was deeply impressed by the men and women of UNIFIL, and their bravery, sacrifice and commitment to the preservation of peace and stability in Lebanon. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been able to discuss with you the crucial work of UNIFIL and the challenges it faces, and greatly appreciate the excellent briefings I received from you and your colleagues. The challenges you face on the ground were all the more underscored by the overview of the terrain that the extended helicopter tour provided. I am also grateful for your valued participation in my meetings with senior Government officials in Beirut.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation to your colleagues and staff for ensuring that our visit to Naqoura was so memorable. Thank you, also, for the gifts presented to me, which are wonderful reminders of the diversity and strength of UNIFIL.

I wish you every continued success in this important assignment.

*With warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

Major-General Claudio Graziano  
Force Commander of the United Nations  
Interim Force in Lebanon  
Naqoura





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Ms. Ziade,

I write to thank you most sincerely for all your help in ensuring that my visit to Lebanon in March was a success, due in no small part to your efforts to ensure that the programme ran smoothly and that all the logistical arrangements were in place. Please convey my deep appreciation to your colleagues in New York and in Beirut for their dedicated efforts provided in support of this visit.

I was pleased to have had the honour to meet with His Excellency Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, and to have discussed with him, as well as with other senior members of your Government, a wide range of issues, including the political situation in the country, the establishment of the Special Court for Lebanon, and implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701. I was also grateful to have had the opportunity to acknowledge the strong partnership and cooperation that exists between the United Nations and Lebanon, and to reiterate the determination of the United Nations to continue to help Lebanon consolidate its sovereignty, independence, stability and security.

I should like once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our profound gratitude to you and the competent authorities for the courtesies afforded to us throughout our brief stay.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

Ms. Caroline Ziade  
Chargé d'affaires  
Permanent Mission of Lebanon  
to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Excellency,

Following my recent first visit to Israel as Secretary-General, I write to thank you most sincerely for all your help in ensuring that my visit was a success. Your tireless efforts helped to make our work so much easier – from the early stages of planning the visit to your assistance in ensuring that everything ran smoothly while we were there.

I was honoured to have had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and with other senior members of the Government of Israel, and am grateful that you were able to contribute to our discussions on the broad range of peace and security issues before us. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation on our shared goal of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Please convey my deep appreciation to your colleagues, in New York and in Jerusalem, for their dedicated efforts and for all the assistance provided in support of my visit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ban Ki-moon', is written over a horizontal line.

Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Dan Gillerman  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Excellency,

I write in reference to my recent and first visit to the occupied Palestinian territory as Secretary-General to thank you most sincerely for all your help in ensuring its success. Your tireless efforts helped to make our work so much easier – from the early stages of planning to your assistance in making sure that everything ran smoothly while *in situ*. Please convey my deep appreciation to your colleagues in New York and in Ramallah for their dedicated efforts provided in support of my programme.

I was honoured to have had the opportunity to meet His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, and to have discussed with him, as well as with other senior members of the National Unity Government, a wide range of issues of mutual concern. I was also grateful to visit the Sharifa el-Araj Girls' School, and to meet and speak with the teachers and students there about the challenges they face, as well as their hopes for an independent Palestinian state.

I should like, once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our profound gratitude to you and the competent authorities for ensuring that our visit to the occupied Palestinian territory was so memorable.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Riyad H. Mansour  
Permanent Observer of Palestine  
to the United Nations  
New York



9 May 2007

Excellency,

I should like to express my deep appreciation for the warm and excellent reception provided to my delegation and me during our visit to Cairo in March and my visit to Sharm El Sheikh last week.


I greatly value the opportunity to have been able to meet with you early in my tenure as Secretary-General, and to have also been able to engage with members of your Government in a frank and open exchange on so many pressing issues before us. It was an honour for me to have heard your views on a wide range of regional peace and security issues, including the situation in the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which Egypt is so deeply involved, and to which you attach such high importance. I was also grateful to have discussed developments in Lebanon and Iraq, and to have sought your counsel and assistance on addressing the crises in Darfur and Somalia. I should also like to express my gratitude to your Government for my visit to the Abu Sir Girls' School, whose young students illustrate the hope and promise of Egypt's future.

I must also add my deep appreciation for the excellent support and assistance your Government provided for my recent visit to Sharm El Sheikh. The meetings held there were successful thanks to the valuable contribution by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other members of your Government.

I am profoundly grateful for the close and strong partnership between the United Nations and Egypt, and look forward to our continued cooperation. In closing, I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to express our gratitude once again for the tireless efforts made on the part of the competent authorities to ensure our smooth and memorable visits to Egypt.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With my deepest respect,*

  
Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Cairo



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Excellency,

Following my recent visits to Egypt, I write to express my profound gratitude for the excellent and warm reception that my delegation and I have received.

I greatly value the opportunity to have been able to meet with you, and engage you in a frank and open exchange on so many pressing issues before us. I also greatly enjoyed the warm hospitality at the dinner you so generously hosted for my delegation and me in March in the presence of such distinguished company. It was an honour for me to have heard your views on the wide range of regional peace, security and development issues in which Egypt is so deeply involved, and to which you attach such high importance, including the Middle East peace process, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Somalia. Your observations were especially valuable to me in the light of my further meetings with Arab leaders at the Summit in Riyadh.

Let me also thank you for the excellent preparations and support provided by your esteemed Ministry for the organization of the International Compact with Iraq Conference and other meetings held in Sharm El Sheikh last week. The dedication of senior officials such as Ambassadors Ahmed Darwish, Soha El Farr, Ala'a Hadidi, Counsellor Sherif El Diwani, and their colleagues has further contributed to the success of this event. I also wish to convey to all those involved in supporting this event from other parts of the Government of Egypt my appreciation for their assistance.

His Excellency  
Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Cairo

In closing, I would like, once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our appreciation to you and the competent authorities for making our visits so successful, and thank you for the gift you presented me on these occasions. Although brief, our visits to Egypt were most memorable, and I returned to New York grateful for, and inspired by, the strong support of Egypt to the United Nations. I look forward to our continued cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*With deep appreciation,*

  
Ban Ki-moon





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Excellency,

I write to thank you most sincerely for all your help in ensuring that my two recent visits to Egypt were a success. Your tireless efforts made our work so much easier – from the early stages of planning the visits, to your assistance in ensuring that everything ran smoothly while we were there. Please convey my deep appreciation to your colleagues in New York and in Cairo for their dedicated efforts provided in support of this visit.

I was pleased to have had the honour to meet His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak in March, and to have discussed with him and members of your Government a wide range of regional peace and security and development issues, as well as the strong partnership and cooperation that exists between the United Nations and Egypt.

It was also an honour to meet His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit at Sharm El Sheikh. The Ministry's excellent coordination and support undoubtedly led the International Compact with Iraq Conference to its success. I am also grateful to His Excellency for having organized a number of meetings for participants from the neighboring countries to exchange views on important issues.

I greatly value having had the opportunity to visit Egypt early in my tenure as Secretary-General, and would like, once again, on behalf of my delegation, to express our profound gratitude to you and the competent authorities for ensuring that our stays in Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh were so memorable.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of highest consideration.



Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz  
Permanent Representative of the Arab  
Republic of Egypt to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Mr. Rawley,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team in Cairo for your professionalism and dedicated efforts made in support of my recent visits to Egypt, early in my tenure as Secretary-General.

The visits were successful and highly productive due in no small part to your efforts to ensure that the programme ran smoothly and that all the logistical arrangements were in place. I was very pleased to have achieved, within a very short time, everything I set out to during my first and subsequent visit to Egypt. I would be grateful if you could please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team, and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked so hard to ensure that my visits to Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh proceeded so smoothly.

I particularly enjoyed meeting the United Nations Country Team and am proud to know that the UN is represented by such an intelligent and dedicated team. I was touched by their warm welcome and grateful for the opportunity to have shared my priorities and views with them, as well as to seek their continued support for our shared objectives. I am grateful that you were able to accompany me to my meetings with senior Government and other officials, and for the opportunity to have been able to discuss with you, although briefly, the crucial work of the United Nations in Egypt.

Mr. James Rawley  
UNDP Resident Coordinator  
Cairo

My particular appreciation goes out to Mr. John Apruzzese for the flexible manner with which he accommodated adjustments to my programme in March and again to him and Ms. Nahed Salama, Mr. Tarek Talaat and Ms. Rasha Abu Ali for their cooperation and efforts in arranging for my fruitful meetings in Sharm El Sheikh.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of the entire delegation, to your colleagues for contributing to the success of our visits.

Yours sincerely,

*Thank you for all your help  
during <sup>my</sup> last visit to  
Sharm - El-Sheikh.*

*Ban Ki-moon*  
Ban Ki-moon





THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9 May 2007

Dear Kevin,

I write to thank you and the United Nations team for their professionalism and unstinting efforts made in support of my first visit as Secretary-General to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) last month.

The overall coordination of the visit was exceptional, and all organizational aspects were very well handled. I would be grateful if you could please convey my profound appreciation to each and every member of your team and to all United Nations colleagues on the ground who worked so hard to ensure that my visit proceeded so smoothly. Please also convey my special thanks to Ms. Lynn Hastings and Ms. Leanne Shulman for their graciousness and flexibility in managing the arrangements of my complex and detailed programme. Your entire team's dedicated efforts, from the early stages of planning to their keen attention to every detail while *in situ* were invaluable and very much appreciated. I am conscious that my visit had to be prepared under considerable pressure.

I am very grateful that you were able to participate in some of my meetings with senior Government and other officials, as well as for the opportunity to have been able to discuss with you the crucial work of the United Nations in the region. I am also grateful for the excellent briefings I received from your colleagues.

Mr. Kevin M. Kennedy  
Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East  
Peace Process  
Jerusalem

Thank you also for your help in arranging the warm welcome I received from UN staff and the UN Country Team. It was an honour for me to address our colleagues and to learn of the different issues that concern them. I was proud to meet such excellent and committed staff.

Once again, please convey my warm thanks as well as those of my entire delegation to your colleagues for contributing to the success of our visit.

With warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon