



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

17 January 2007

Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 26 December 2006 and would like to thank you for your warm wishes as I assume the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations. In turn, I would like to express my appreciation for your leadership and resolve in steering your nation through tumultuous times this past year and a half.

Indeed, the Middle East has been afflicted by conflict and violence over many decades. Unfortunately, Lebanon has experienced the strife first-hand. In recognition of the serious situation that we face in the whole Middle East, including Lebanon, I will make the region one of the priorities of my tenure. The challenges we face in achieving our shared goals for peace and security are formidable. I pledge to spare no effort towards reaching those goals in the interest of all the peoples in the region.

The United Nations will continue to work towards the implementation of all pertinent Security Council resolutions regarding Lebanon. As various United Nations offices continue to implement their mandates and work closely with you towards this aim, we will also strive to streamline our presence in Lebanon and improve our performance and effectiveness.

As I carry out my functions, I count on our close cooperation. I look forward to meeting you in Paris on 25 January and to exchanging views on issues facing Lebanon and the Middle East at large.

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


Ban Ki-moon

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