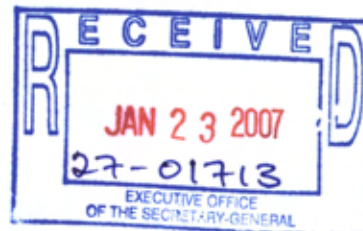


DESA

LS



Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Subject: Proposed reply of the Secretary-General to Messrs T. Pickering and L. Rosenblatt on the situation of indigenous peoples

(#27-00587)

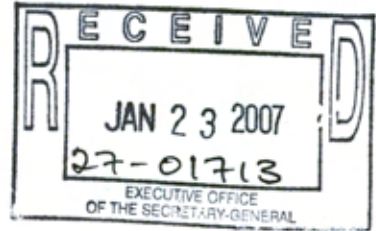
DESA received from your office on 10 January a letter from Messrs T. Pickering (former US Ambassador to the United Nations) and L. Rosenblatt (Refugees International) addressed to the Secretary-General, raising a number of issues regarding the situation of indigenous peoples and suggesting certain initiatives that the Secretary-General might take to reinforce the United Nations' work in this area.

While some of the institutional suggestions in the letter appear problematic, given the prominence of the authors and the personal tone of the communication, a reply from the Secretary-General may be appropriate. A draft reply is enclosed.

José Antonio Ocampo
19 January 2007



LS



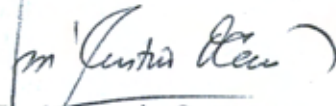
Note to the Chef de Cabinet

Subject: Proposed reply of the Secretary-General to Messrs T. Pickering and L. Rosenblatt on the situation of indigenous peoples

(#27-00587)

DESA received from your office on 10 January a letter from Messrs T. Pickering (former US Ambassador to the United Nations) and L. Rosenblatt (Refugees International) addressed to the Secretary-General, raising a number of issues regarding the situation of indigenous peoples and suggesting certain initiatives that the Secretary-General might take to reinforce the United Nations' work in this area.

While some of the institutional suggestions in the letter appear problematic, given the prominence of the authors and the personal tone of the communication, a reply from the Secretary-General may be appropriate. A draft reply is enclosed.


José Antonio Ocampo
19 January 2007



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 January 2007

Dear Mr. Rosenblatt,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2006 regarding the situation of indigenous peoples, and for your suggestions as to what the United Nations might do on this critical issue.

As you know, over the last 25 years, indigenous peoples have achieved considerable institutional advances at the United Nations and in a number of countries. Nonetheless, they continue to suffer grievously from extreme poverty, armed conflict and displacement, and are subjected to discrimination, marginalization and other violations of their human rights.

Let me assure you of my deep concern for indigenous peoples, wherever they live, and my intention to devote all due attention to indigenous issues during my tenure. I will be discussing your proposals with my senior advisers as we prepare for the Sixth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which will be held at UN Headquarters in New York in May.

The Forum's structure -- bringing indigenous peoples together with States, the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations -- offers a good platform for progress. I share your view that it is both incumbent upon us and fully within our reach to nurture this relationship into a meaningful and productive partnership.

Thank you again for your interest and support. Please note that I have sent a similar response to Mr. Pickering.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ban Ki-Moon

Mr. Lionel Rosenblatt
President Emeritus
Refugees International
Washington, D.C.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 January 2007

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2006 regarding the situation of indigenous peoples, and for your suggestions as to what the United Nations might do on this critical issue.

As you know, over the last 25 years, indigenous peoples have achieved considerable institutional advances at the United Nations and in a number of countries. Nonetheless, they continue to suffer grievously from extreme poverty, armed conflict and displacement, and are subjected to discrimination, marginalization and other violations of their human rights.

Let me assure you of my deep concern for indigenous peoples, wherever they live, and my intention to devote all due attention to indigenous issues during my tenure. I will be discussing your proposals with my senior advisers as we prepare for the Sixth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which will be held at UN Headquarters in New York in May.

The Forum's structure -- bringing indigenous peoples together with States, the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations -- offers a good platform for progress. I share your view that it is both incumbent upon us and fully within our reach to nurture this relationship into a meaningful and productive partnership.

Thank you again for your interest and support. Please note that I have sent a similar response to Mr. Rosenblatt.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban", is written over a vertical line that extends from the signature down to the printed name below it.

Ban Ki-Moon

His Excellency
Mr. Thomas R. Pickering
Washington, D.C.