

5 April 2007

Excellency,

I would like to express my appreciation once again for the warm hospitality extended to me when, as the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, I visited your country last July during the Summit conference of the African Union in Banjul. Since becoming Secretary-General of the United Nations last January, I have had the opportunity to reiterate my gratitude for the Gambia's support and cooperation to your former Permanent Representative, Ambassador Crispin Grey-Johnson.

Given the excellent and harmonious working relationship that has long existed between the Gambia and the United Nations, it was, therefore, with great surprise that I received your request to withdraw with immediate effect the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Fadzai Gwaradzimba, from the Gambia. I regret any misunderstanding between my representatives and Member States, as our goal is to continue to work collaboratively with the countries we serve. In this particular case, I believe that the circumstances leading to your Government's decision could have been resolved through dialogue. Having reviewed Ms. Gwaradzimba's statement, I also feel that the reaction of the Government of the Gambia was not commensurate with her alleged offence.

Ms. Gwaradzimba was a strong advocate for the Gambia and has worked diligently, and in a dedicated manner, to promote the shared objectives and priorities of your Government and the United Nations. As we seek to move beyond this highly regrettable incident, and the temporary interruptions that it has caused with respect to our work on the ground, I hope that the Government of the Gambia will speedily restore a strong and productive working relationship with the United Nations so that together we can continue to work to serve the interest of peace and development in the Gambia.

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



Ban Ki-moon

His Excellency
Al Hadji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh
President of the Republic of the Gambia
Banjul