



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

21 March 2013

Excellencies,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21 March 2013 in which you request me to investigate several incidents of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

As you know, I share your deep concern about all these allegations. In my communication to the Syrian Government today, I stated that, while the investigation mission will look at the specific incident brought to my attention by the Syrian Government, we will also take seriously other allegations that chemical weapons were used elsewhere in the country.

I have also emphasized the primary responsibility of the Syrian Government to ensure the safety and security of any chemical weapons or materials and assure the international community that any chemical weapons stockpiles in the country are safeguarded.

It would be appreciated if additional information could be received from your Governments pertaining to the alleged incidents, in order for me to accede to your request. In providing such additional information, your Governments may wish to refer to appendix I of A/44/561 (annex) which provides an indicative list of the type of information to be provided as available in reporting the possible use of chemical, bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons.

His Excellency
Mr. Gérard Araud
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations
New York

His Excellency
Sir Mark Lyall Grant
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations
New York

SG's letters to UK and France
Permanent Representatives

Drafted by: Speechwriting Unit
Consulted: ODA and OLA

Approved by:
21 March 2013

There was a lot of
discussion about this
letter: From the addres-
block to the appendix
This is the result of
the approval of ODC's
DSG, Andrew G, Lee Sang-h

My senior advisers will be contacting the Syrian authorities regarding the modalities for the investigation mission to allow it to start its important work in Syria as soon as possible in the coming days. I will keep you posted as developments unfold. I count on your continued support in this important endeavour.

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


BAN Ki-moon