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Note to the Secretary-General

2006 Zayed International Environment Award

You were informed last month by Mr. Toepfer that you had been awarded the 2006 Zayed International Prize for the Environment. We have now received the official invitation (attached) from His Highness Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, for you to attend the award ceremony in Dubai on 6 February. You are also being invited to inaugurate, on 7 February, the 9th Special Session of the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which is being held for the first time in the Arab region.

I am also attaching a letter from Mr. Toepfer, received today, informing you that it has not been possible to change the date of the award ceremony, which has been re-confirmed for Monday, 6 February.

A trip to Dubai on these dates would not fit well in your schedule. You will just have returned from overseas travel on 1 February. Also, please note that we have recently been informed that the 6th of February is the likely date for the visit of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to United Nations Headquarters.

Would you wish Mr. Toepfer to receive the award on your behalf? Or should we explore with the Permanent Mission whether they would consider arranging a smaller ceremony here at Headquarters, where you could personally receive the prize? You may also consider sending a video-taped message or a doing a live video-link, however the time difference may make the latter option an inconvenient one.

I would be grateful for your guidance.

Thank you,

Kevin S. Kennedy 16 January 200**6**

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