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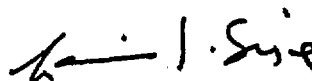
OLA

Note to Mr. Michel

Proposal that the 2007 Treaty Event should focus on the Arctic (and Antarctica)

1. Please find attached a letter dated 7 August 2006 from Mr. Hans Corell proposing that the 2007 Treaty Event should focus on the Arctic and possibly also on Antarctica.
2. The Secretary-General has asked that OLA's views be requested on this matter.

Thank you.



Lamin J. Sise
15 August 2006

AUG 18 2006

26-10406

Hans Corell
Ambassador
Norr Mälarstrand 70
112 35 Stockholm

Stockholm, 7 August 2006

H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations

LS
Please consult
OLA and advise.

7/8

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Proposal that the 2007 Treaty Event should focus on the Arctic (and Antarctica)

I am fully aware that there are many urgent matters that demand your attention these days. However, since you are always able also to look to the horizon, I venture to send you these lines proposing that the 2007 Treaty Event should focus on the Arctic and possibly also on Antarctica. The background is the following.

On 3 August 2006, I addressed the Seventh Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region on the topic "Reflections on the possibilities and limitations of a binding legal regime for the Arctic". I have sent a copy of this address to the Legal Counsel. A point of departure in the address is the following quote from the Executive Summary of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment which was established at the request of the Arctic Council and presented in November 2004:

"Earth's climate is changing, with the global temperature now rising at a rate unprecedented in the experience of modern human society. While some historical changes in climate have resulted from natural causes and variations, the strength of the trends and the patterns of change that have emerged in recent decades indicate that human influences, resulting primarily from increased emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, have now become the dominant factor.

These climate changes are being experienced particularly intensely in the Arctic. Arctic average temperature has risen at almost twice the rate as the rest of the world in the past few decades. Widespread melting of glaciers and sea ice and rising permafrost temperatures present additional evidence of strong arctic warming. These changes in the Arctic provide an early indication of the environmental and societal significance of global warming.

And acceleration of these climatic trends is projected to occur during this century, due to ongoing increases in concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. While greenhouse gas emissions do not primarily originate in the Arctic, they are projected to bring wide-ranging changes and impacts to the Arctic. These arctic changes will, in turn, impact the planet as a whole. For this reason, people outside the Arctic have a great stake in what is happening there." (My emphasis)

SG OFFICE

#5349

7 August 2006

26-10406

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At the Conference, I also participated in a panel discussion during which I mentioned the Annual Treaty Event, now also specifically endorsed in last year's Summit Resolution. I suggested that the Treaty Event could be a possibility of drawing attention to treaties relevant to the Arctic and, in particular, to the fact that also people outside the Arctic region have a great interest in what is happening there.

I recall in this context that the High North was one of the topics of this year's Tällberg Forum at the end of June; you kindly addressed the opening session by live video link.

On 4 August 2006, the Conference of Parliamentarians adopted a Statement which makes reference to the International Polar Year 2007-2008 and which also contains the following:

“-----

C. Ask the Governments in the Arctic region and the institutions of the European Union to

28. In light of the impact of climate change, and the increasing economic and human activity, initiate, as a matter of urgency, an audit of existing legal regimes that impact the Arctic and to continue the discussion about strengthening or adding to them where necessary:

29. Propose to the United Nations that the scope of the Annual Treaty Event in 2007, or at the earliest possible time, should be UN Treaties relevant to the Arctic;

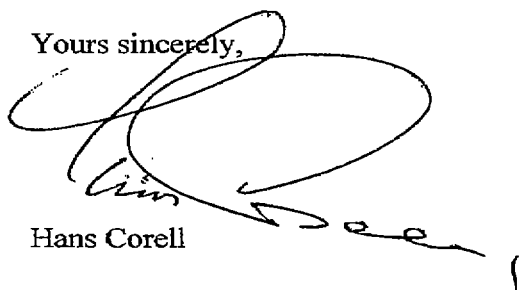
-----“

I wanted to draw your attention to this request immediately and ask you to kindly consider already at this stage that next year's Treaty Event should focus on the Arctic. Because of the International Polar Year, I believe that focus should also be on Antarctica. But this is a matter that could be sorted out at a later stage.

A specific feature with respect to the invitation to this Treaty Event is that it will require some research to determine which treaties should be listed in the attachment to the Secretary-General's customary letter inviting Heads of State and Government to participate in the Event. Preparations should therefore commence as soon as possible.

I do hope that you will consider this proposal favourably.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans Corell', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Hans Corell