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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

8 May 2006

Dear Mr. McDonald,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 23 March 2006 addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the International Decade for Action: "Water for Life" 2005-2015 and the generous offer of Spain to support the United Nations' efforts to make the Decade a success.

I am pleased to inform you that the negotiations with the Spanish authorities are in their final stage. As you know, such agreements take time to enter into force, since their implications are important both for the host country and for the United Nations. Because the Decade is a system-wide effort, the trust fund to establish the office to support the Decade in Zaragoza, and all the related operational activities, will be administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Department also provides the secretariat services to UN-Water.

The Secretary-General has also taken opportunity of his recent meeting with Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero to express his appreciation to the Government of Spain for its support to the United Nations' efforts regarding this important Decade.

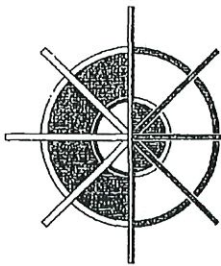
I thank you for your continued interest in and support to the United Nations' activities related to water resources and sanitation and the "Water-for-Life" Decade.

Sincerely yours,

Alicia Bárcena  
Acting Chef de Cabinet

Mr. John W. McDonald  
Chairman  
Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy  
Arlington

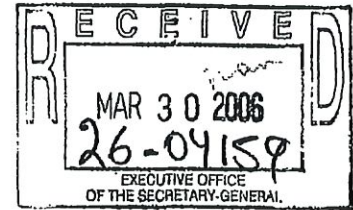




# INSTITUTE FOR MULTI-TRACK DIPLOMACY

PEACEBUILDING THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ACTION

Y/M



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March 23, 2006,

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Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I write to you in desperation!

The UN Decade called "Water for Life," (2005-2015) was officially launched by the United Nations one year ago yesterday, but your office, DESA-UN Water has done little to implement the Decade's goals and a very valuable year has now been lost.

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A year ago, the Government of Spain offered the Director General of UNESCO one million dollars a year, for ten years, in a Fund in Trust agreement, if he would agree to locate a Secretariat, which would be established, to manage the Decade, in the city of Zaragoza, Spain. Spain is hosting a World Water Expo in Zaragoza in 2008 and welcomes the location of the Secretariat in that city. UNESCO likes the idea and is even considering establishing an ADG post there to manage the operation. That model was also followed during the first Water Decade (1981-1990), when the ADG was in the UNDP.

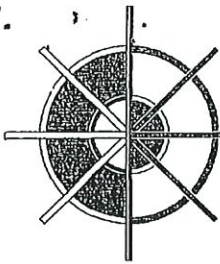
Unfortunately, no action has been taken on the generous Spanish offer because UNESCO did not want to offend you and UN Water. UN Water was never designed to take on this enormous task but it has stalled action on the Spanish offer to UNESCO and nothing is happening.

Mr. Hashimoto is aware of this situation.

I am writing to you as a long-time supporter of the UN and of you personally, having followed your career since the days of Robert Gardner and the ECA. I have also spent more time on UN economic and social affairs than anyone in the history of the US Foreign Service, including four years as DDG of the ILO (1974-78) and having been appointed Ambassador twice by both Presidents Carter and Reagan to lead US  
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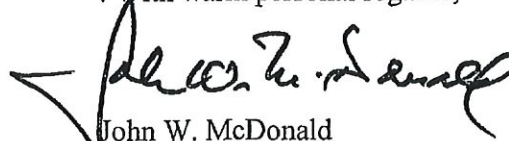
Rukudzo Murapa

Richard Ruffin

Delegations to global UN conferences. I was also instrumental in launching the first Water Decade and the Water for Life Decade.

I urge you to intervene personally and telephone the Director General of UNESCO and ask him to accept the Spanish offer. The Decade would then be truly launched and work on implementing its goals could begin in earnest. .

With warm personal regards,



John W. McDonald  
US Ambassador (ret.)

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