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Note to Mr. Riza

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SEP 20 1999
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND
MR. TERJE ROED-LARSEN**

1. I should like to suggest that, space permitting, the Secretary-General invite Mr. Terje Roed-Larsen to attend his meetings with ministers from the following countries: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine Liberation Organization/ Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia (member of the ad-hoc liaison for assistance to the Palestinian people).
2. While most of these ministers know Mr. Roed-Larsen well, his inclusion in the Secretary-General's party would signal the Secretary-General's personal backing for Mr. Larsen's endeavours in the Middle East as his new envoy there.

K. Prendergast

Kieran Prendergast
20 September 1999

PRIORITY

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AUG 24 2001
SG/CENTRAL

*Et. Pl. include after clearing w/ SR
(although Mr. R-L will not take
up SR position until 1 October)*

[Signature]
20/9

~~Secretary General,~~

*Your guidance please. Egypt is
scheduled to arrive in 6.200.
SR
9/21/99.*

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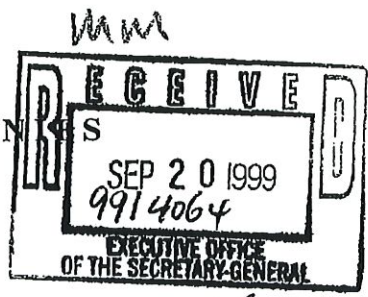
*Done
9/21*

*Approved, but - as discussed
ask KP to reconsider his
participation in the Israeli
meeting*

[Signature]
22/9 6.12pm

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
#16 21 Sept.

6.55 pm



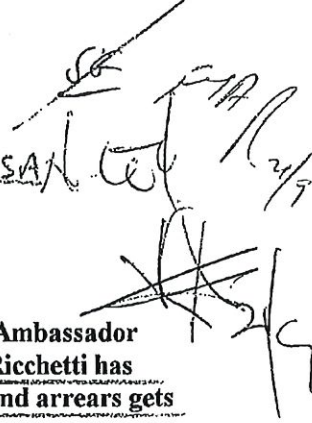
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

(Rec'd 21/9)

20 September 1999

TO: The Secretary-General

FROM: Joseph E. Connor 

SUBJECT: Meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff to the President of the USA 
Mr. Steve Ricchetti - 20 September 1999

1. A meeting was arranged by the State Department, with encouragement from Ambassador Holbrooke, for me to meet with the above individual in the White House today. Mr. Ricchetti has been given responsibility by the President to see that the regular budget assessment and arrears gets through Congress (he has also given this responsibility to Ambassador Holbrooke).

2. I told Mr. Ricchetti there were two issues that right now were a problem: first, the near term issue is for the United States to avoid Article 19. In this connection I informed Ricchetti, and the State Department representative agreed, that the new legislation, consisting of the regular appropriations and the Helms-Biden arrears, does not have enough money that can be paid by the end of the calendar year 1999 to avoid Article 19. Only \$200 million seems likely to be both legislated and made payable for the current year's appropriation and \$100 million for the arrears. The total of \$300 million falls short of the \$337 million which must be paid.

3. I suggested to Mr. Ricchetti that there were ways of curing the situation in the Conference Committee, namely, changing the benchmark year for zero nominal growth to 1998-1999 instead of 2000-2001. The meeting participants thought that this would be the easiest way to make the change which will ensure that the United States does not fall under Article 19.

4. Secondly, I told him that the second and third years of the Helms-Biden package are heavily laden with benchmarks, several of which the Member States seem not willing to accept. These are the transfer of some \$500 million in prior assessments in a "frozen arrears account", and the decrease in the United States scale of assessment for the regular budget from 25 per cent to 22 per cent, and then to 20 per cent. I told Mr. Ricchetti that the political will to agree to such arrangements by a large number of Member States is simply not there so far as the Secretariat can determine.

5. I also pointed out that these numerous benchmarks do not come into play until the second and third years of the arrears package. I left open the possibility that these benchmarks could be changed a year from now if the political climate changed. Mr. Ricchetti was non-committal relative to a change in those benchmarks.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE #12 21 Sept. 99 4613

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