



S-0046-0001-004-00007

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*Primary Contact*

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*Assignee* **Marvin Cordova since 28/11/2006 at 9:53 AM**

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*Container* **S-0046-0001: DM - Main Office - General**

Notes

Record has no document attached.

*Print Name of Person Submit Image*

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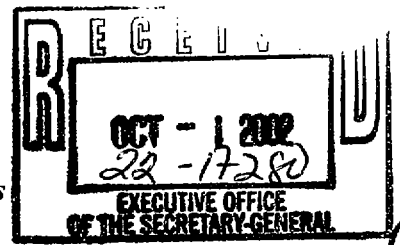
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Note to the Secretary-General

*Update on recent US legislation as concerns financial matters*

Last week, both Houses of the US Congress adopted a joint Conference Report that was forwarded to the White House for the President's signature, which he is expected to sign early this week. Once signed, the bill, which is part of the State Department Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2003, will finally bring to completion the certification of all benchmarks set out under the Helms-Biden legislation and the release of the final tranche of the arrears payment.

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The Report also includes a section that would authorize the lifting of the cap on US peacekeeping payments for 2001-2004. This will allow full payment of peacekeeping assessments in calendar years 2001 through 2004 at the following rates: 28.15 per cent for calendar year 2001, 27.90 per cent for 2002, and 27.40 per cent for years 2003 and 2004. The cap of 25 per cent would be restored after 2004.

Language was also included that explains that the US system of paying its dues to the UN regular budget is at least ten months late every year and results in the UN engaging in unsound budgetary practices. As such the report informs the President that it is the sense of Congress that the US should initiate a process to synchronize the payment of its assessment to the UN, its affiliated agencies and other international organizations over a multi-year period so the US can resume paying its dues at the beginning of each calendar year. It also authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out this policy. It should be noted, though, that the bill does not make this mandatory nor does it set out a timetable for this change.

As for the release of the tranche three arrears payment, it is understood that the \$244 million will be paid to the United Nations and other specialized agencies in the following amounts:

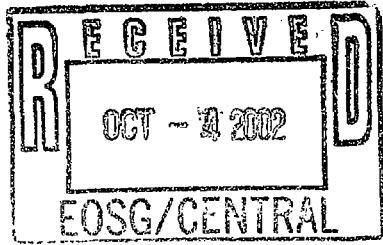
United Nations:	30 million	(in US dollars)
FAO:	105 million	
WHO:	30 million	
ILO:	25 million	
OAS:	25 million	
OECD:	7 million	

In addition, \$22 million will be paid to a variety of agencies including PAHO.

As is our usual practice, the payment to the United Nations will be used to reimburse Member States for the use of their troops and equipment.

While this payment completes the arrears programme set out by the US to pay \$926 million of it outstanding payments, the remaining arrears of some \$700 million still remains an open question.

Nevertheless, it is satisfying to know that this chapter is now behind us.



Joseph E. Connor  
30 September 2002

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