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LEDSG

SG/ for your attention
Cl. 17/5

**Note to the Secretary-General
(through MiM and EL)
Ref: speeches in East Timor**

Dear SG,

Please find attached the following, for your review:

1. Points that you could make in a speech in Kiev, either at the synagogue or in the parliament. These were drafted by Richard Amdur. I have shown them to Dominique Moïsi, who likes them very much. His only comment was that it is important to be very specific on one aspect: there have been many more attacks in Europe on Muslims than on Jews, but also many more on synagogues and Jewish cemeteries than on mosques – i.e., while Muslims are attacked as individuals, it is the symbols of Judaism that are attacked.
2. Op ed article on sustainable development. Based on the message you approved two weeks ago, and the speech to the Natural History Museum, this has been revised in the light of comments from the DSG and Prof. Sachs. If you approve, I hope we can get it published next week – possibly in the Financial Times and Los Angeles Times.

I will send you the draft of your speech at the Geneva Graduate Institute tomorrow – by which time I hope I will have comments from Mr. Guéhenno and Mr. Türk.

Yours sincerely, EM

Edward Mortimer
17 May 2002

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**POINTS FOR A STATEMENT ON PLURALISM/TOLERANCE IN EUROPE
(POSSIBLY AT KIEV SYNAGOGUE OR IN THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT)
June 2002**

* Indicate that the choice to speak on the subject of pluralism and tolerance in Europe has been made in the light of recent efforts to intensify the process of European integration and in response to recent troubling events that attack the very spirit of that process.

* Praise post-second-world-war European efforts to promote integration, tolerance and cross-cultural harmony, and to overcome a history of often-virulent nationalisms and nearly constant conflict.

* Commend post-cold-war progress of eastern European countries in particular to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

* Acknowledge difficulties involved in the transition to an open Europe, with countries interacting, peoples mixing, and national/individual identities changing more than ever before.

* Lament all manifestations of racism and intolerance: i.e. attacks on minorities and immigrants, discrimination in housing and employment, and success of right-wing politicians using nativist appeals.

* Note that in recent years Muslim refugees, immigrants and "guest workers" have been the most frequent targets. (Possibly add that tensions involving Europeans and Muslims also arise over issues as diverse as Cyprus, potential Turkish membership in the European Union, and conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo the former Yugoslavia. In the latter case, Europeans opened their doors to many Muslim refugees but were also harshly criticized for not acting as swiftly or as forcefully as they might have had the primary victims been Christian rather than Muslim.)

* Express dismay that in recent months there has been a rise in attacks against Jews, synagogues and Jewish-owned shops, and in propaganda disparaging Judaism. Much of this likely represents a misguided conflation of anger about Israeli policies with hostility towards anything Jewish. But some of it may also be a product of domestic politics, long-existing societal tensions or the grievances of long-disaffected minorities. But whatever the possible explanation, the long historical shadow cast by anti-Semitism in Europe means that many Jews have come to fear that a beast long thought dead has been reawakened. And even if this is not objectively true – even if European countries have by and large learned the lessons of the Holocaust and polls show that most people regard anti-Semitism as unacceptable -- the suspicions among Jews are such that Governments and individuals must work extra hard in response to new manifestations of hatred.

* Point out that Israeli policies should not be beyond criticism, but that when the critiques lump all Jews together, lapse into moral equivalency, or suggest that all Jews are responsible for the specific policies of a specific Israeli government, we are on a slippery

slope to caricature, prejudice and worse. Words can inflame; words are often precursors to violence; and violence, for Jews, easily conjures existential threats.

- * Appeal for tolerance and calm. Stress the importance of diversity and universal values. Reiterate recent statement to Commission on Human Rights: "All attacks on mosques, churches, synagogues and other centres of communal life must stop".

- * Mention the practical benefits of pluralism for democracy and development.

- * Commend steps being taken by the Ukrainian Government, NGOs and others to deal with specific problems in Ukraine.

- * [If at synagogue, stress goal of visiting mosques, churches, minority communities and similar locations to repeat this core UN message.]