



S-0039-0001-057-00015

Expanded Number **S-0039-0001-057-00015**

External ID

Title

Item-in-KAA: EOSG 2004 Executive Office of the Secretary General

Date Created

Date Registered

Date Closed

11/12/2006 at 1:21 PM

11/12/2006

Primary Contact

Home Location **S-0039-0001-057 (In Container)**

Assignee **In Container 'S-0039-0001-057 (Souleymane Soukouna)' since 11/12/2006 at**

Priority

Local-container

Owner Location **Archives and Records Management Section**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Date Published

Document Details

Container **S-0039-0001: EOSG - General**

Notes

Record has no document attached.

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit



EOSG

G R 23/12 ~~SG (P)~~ *FRE* *129/11*

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Through Mr. Riza)

Our response to 1 June Coleman/Levin letter, and ways to avert delays in future

Noted
[Signature]
30/11

Dear SG,

You rightly asked for an explanation of the four-month delay that occurred between receipt of a 1 June letter to you from US Senators Coleman and Levin about Oil-for-Food and the sending of a reply. Clearly such a long delay in replying to any letter on a highly sensitive issue that gravely affects the interests of the Organization is inexcusable. We must find ways to make sure that such delays do not recur in the future.

1. What went wrong

In short, it appears that the letter was copied by Mr. Riza to Mr. Zacklin on 4 June, and that a response was drafted and circulated within OLA by 7 June. However, it seems that OLA did not transmit the draft response to EOSG at that time. In August, the absence of a reply was raised with UNIC Washington by the Senators' staff, and, following contacts between Mr. Riza's office and OLA, the letter was resent to OLA on 30 August. The draft response was received in EOSG on 23 September; and the final signed letter, dated 29 September, was faxed to the two Senators on 1 October. (A more detailed chronology is attached.) The record reflects very badly on OLA, but also on us in EOSG. We should certainly have been much more active in following up with OLA to find out what was happening. But there was, I'm afraid, a lack of clarity as to who, within EOSG, was the focal point tasked with follow-up on such letters and requests from the US Congress.

By SG on 2 June

2. Measures to prevent recurrence

- a) The DSG has, as you know, instituted a new system to help ensure a more rapid, integrated and coordinated response on all issues related to Oil-for-Food. In particular, there is now a task force chaired by Robert Orr, composed of senior policy makers and communicators most involved on Oil-for-Food, or their representatives. The task force focuses on broad policy issues and provides overall guidance to the inter-departmental Rapid Response Group that I chair, and that is supposed to discuss and coordinate the communications aspects of the Programme and the investigation. Since 18 November, the Task Force has been meeting daily, although I understand that in the next few weeks, while Congress is in recess, its meetings will be a bit less frequent.
- b) Specifically on correspondence, Mr. Sise has now been designated as focal point for all correspondence addressed to you, relating to the Oil-for-Food programme – other than media requests, which will continue to go through Fred. I hope this will avert, in the future, the confusion that hitherto prevailed on this floor about who was responsible for ensuring that such correspondence was dealt with and answered promptly. It is, I believe, very important that on all issues – not only Oil-for-Food – letters addressed to you should be logged to one person on this

24-16928

EOSG / CENTRAL

2011/09 # 1543

floor, and that, no matter who else they are copied to, that person should be responsible for follow-up unless or until responsibility is formally transferred to another person (in which case, there should be a written record of such transfer).

- c) I believe, based on the review of actions in preparing the Coleman/Levin response, that OLA also needs to tighten up its system for logging and copying communications, both internal and with other departments.

Together, these measures should help in ensuring that in future our handling of the Oil-for Food issue is better coordinated, taking full account of both policy and communications aspects.

Yours sincerely,

EM

Edward Mortimer
26 November 2004

**Chronology of Actions Taken on the Letter from Senator Coleman and Levin
(24-08179 and 24-13971)**

- 1 June** Letter received. Central logs it to SIR, copy M Mauras
- 2 June** Letter sent by SIR to “DSG FYA and reply, SG’s signature ?”
Letter copied to SG (for info), Nair, Møller
(DSG receives a copy from Central via M Barthelemy and Y Mengesha)
- 3 June** SG returns letter “We received a similar request from Hyde. Have we responded ?”
SG informed by SIR that OLA draft response to Hyde was sent on 2 June
- Y Mengesha suggests SIR copy letter to Mr. Zacklin**
- 4 June** Letter copied by SIR to Mr. Zacklin
(DSG’s copy seen and sent to Y Mengesha)
- 7 June** OLA now confirms a draft response was with Mr. Rashkow by this date
- 26 July** OLA now confirms that their log shows that response was sent (but no record of receipt in EOSG) – OLA later confirms their log entry was in error
- August** Lack of reply is raised with UNIC Washington by Coleman and Levin’s staff and conveyed to EOSG
Telephonic / e-mail contacts between SIR’s office and OLA
- 30 August** OLA requests another copy of the incoming letter
L Manji re-sends letter of 1 June to Mr. Rashkow
- 23 September** L Sise receives draft response from OLA
- 30 September** L Sise sends response to Y Mengesha “If you agree I will authorize signature of the letters. No need to send them to SG or DSG”.
Y Mengesha returns letter “OK” to L Sise
- 1 October** Signed letter delivered to Mr. Rashkow’s office for dispatch
- Mr. Rashkow’s office confirms to L Sise’s office that the letters have been faxed and received by Coleman and Levin**