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Note to the Secretary-General

<u>Security Council luncheon – 10 January</u>

Ambassador Mahbubani called me yesterday to inquire about your preferences for topics to be discussed at the forthcoming Security Council luncheon, which will take place on Wednesday 10 January.

As we discussed yesterday, I have sought the advice of Messrs. Guéhenno and Prendergast regarding possible subjects for discussion at the luncheon. Mr. Guéhenno suggested (and Mr. Prendergast agreed) that, drawing on the case of East Timor, the group could discuss the broad policy issues related to the UN's involvement in peace building and nation building. Such a discussion could touch upon the financing mechanisms involved, as well as the devising of ways and means to ensure that the peace building process does not substitute the UN in place of viable and independent national structures.

Singapore would, of course, have a natural interest in such a discussion, due to its regional proximity and the support it has shown for East Timor. Also, East Timor will be discussed in the Security Council towards the end of January, and Mr. Guéhenno is of the opinion that that debate would benefit by previous discussion of the subject at the Security Council lunch.

In addition to the East Timor/peace building theme, Mr. Prendergast thought that you might want to mention the Middle East peace process at the luncheon. The purpose would be to discuss the role of the Security Council in that process in the context of the vacuum which might arise due to the imminent change of US administrations.

May I have your guidance, please?

Thank you.

Elisabeth Lindenmayer 5 January 2001

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