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*Middle East
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Note to the Secretary-General

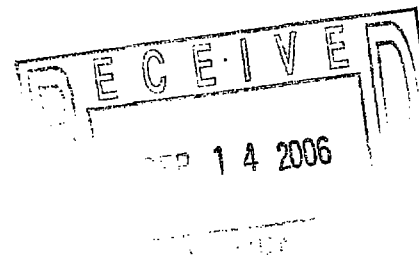
**DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL
MINISTERIAL ON THE MIDDLE EAST ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2006**

*has this gone
to SG?
A*

1. As discussed, please see attached a draft Presidential Statement handed to me after the Security Council luncheon by the Greek Presidency. They have consulted several delegations including with the Qataris, the Israelis and the US at various levels. They intend to continue consultations around this draft with a view to having it agreed in time for the proposed 21 September Security Council Ministerial on the Middle East.
2. The draft "underlines the need to intensify efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace," reiterates the importance of key Security Council resolutions, recognizes the centrality of the Palestinian question for peace in the Middle East, and reaffirms support for a two-state solution. It also stresses that the parties must respect obligations, including ending violence and terror.
3. While the draft will disappoint Amre Moussa and falls short of the League of Arab States' proposal for a resolution that introduces defined accountability and timelines, the draft statement does call on all sides to de-escalate and calls for "immediate concrete, positive action by the parties in order to create the necessary conditions for negotiations to resume." It recognizes the leading role of the Quartet, and reminds of the three principles set out in the 30 January Quartet statement.
4. The last paragraph is considered problematic by the US and Israel. It requests you, "...in close coordination with the Quartet, parties in the region and others, to report to the Council on a regular basis on progress made in taking the peace process forward." Such accountability of the Quartet process to the Security Council is likely to be resisted.


Ibrahim Gambari
12 September 2006

cc: Mr. Lopes
Mr. Williams
Ms. Kane



26-11885