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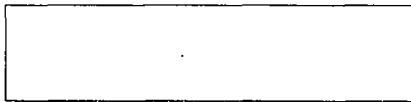
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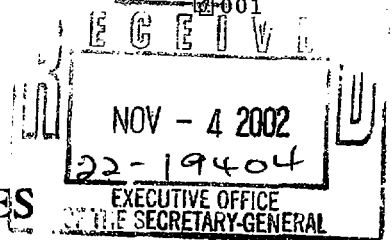
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The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management

4 November 2002

Excellency,

I refer to your letter to me of 31 October 2002, in which you invited me to brief the Sixth Committee on how the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management would undertake the technical secretariat servicing of the Committee.

As the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, I am always ready to appear before intergovernmental bodies to respond to questions concerning conference services.

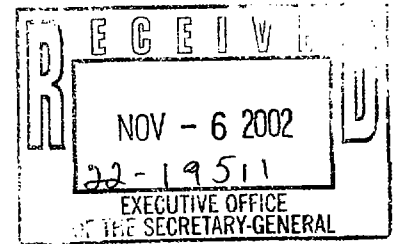
The transfer of the technical secretariat servicing functions of the Sixth Committee into the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management is a decision taken by the Secretary-General for the purpose of completing the integration of the technical secretariats of all the Main Committees of the General Assembly. To implement this decision, my Department will initiate close consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs on the necessary administrative arrangements. I believe that it is in the common interest of all to ensure a smooth transition. I can assure you that the Secretariat will continue to deliver high-quality services to the Committee as in the past. My colleagues and I will be available to brief the Committee on these matters at one of your informal meetings.


Chen Jian

H.E. Mr. Arpad Prandler
Chairman of the Sixth Committee
of the 57th session of the General Assembly

cc: Mr. I. Riza
Mr. H. Corell

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CC MM



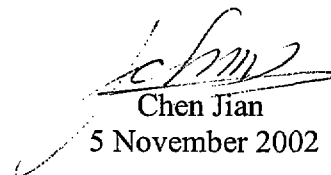
Note to Mr. Riza

Briefing to the Sixth Committee on the Transfer of Its Technical Secretariat into DGACM

At the request of Amb. Arpad Prandler, Chairman of the Sixth Committee, I briefed the Committee during a formal meeting this afternoon (upon insistence of Costa Rica that the Secretariat's position be put on record) on how the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management would undertake the technical secretariat servicing of the Committee.

I stressed that the decision on the transfer had already been taken by the Secretary-General, and that to implement the decision, DGACM and OLA would conduct close consultations on the necessary administrative arrangements to ensure a smooth transition and continued provision of quality services, taking into full consideration the specialized and technical nature of the work of the Committee. Mr. Stoby elaborated on the history and rationale of the integration process.

Peru, Switzerland, Austria, the United States, Cuba, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Argentina, Jordan and Ethiopia raised questions about the transfer, focusing, among others, on what specific improvement in performance and amount of savings the Secretariat expected to gain through the transfer, how the legal expertise of the relocated technical secretariat could be maintained, how the subsidiary bodies of the Committee could be serviced, and how the substantive servicing of the Committee would not be affected.


Chen Jian
5 November 2002