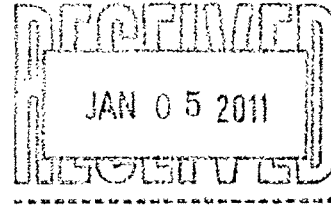


UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

**FOR MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON**

DEC 29 2010



Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to inform you that the United Nations is taking action to address significant physical security concerns related to the protection of the UN Headquarters compound in New York City. The location of the UN Headquarters compound, and the configuration of the Conference Building in particular, creates unique security requirements due to the proximity of the building to major traffic arteries that cannot be closed or relocated.

The New York City Police Department has encouraged the United Nations to improve the physical security of the compound. With the increasing threats the United Nations has been facing globally, it has become evident during the execution of the UN Capital Master Plan that more stringent security measures are required than those originally planned. To address these issues, the United Nations has identified additional work, not envisaged in the original UN Capital Master Plan, to install bollards on First Avenue and to reinforce and reconfigure the Conference Building structure. Changing the Conference Building structure is the only effective way to achieve greater blast resistance, since it is not feasible to secure sufficient additional setback from FDR Drive. The United Nations is also considering other changes on the perimeter itself, working with New York City.

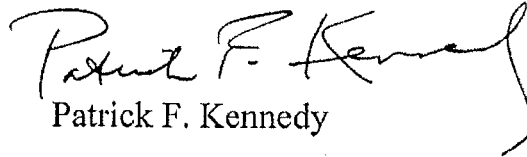
The Department concurs with New York City that the United States and the United Nations have a strong shared interest in having increased security against threats emanating from public rights of way along First Avenue and the FDR Drive, even though this is primarily the responsibility of the United Nations. The Conference Building is especially important because of the number of senior officials - including Heads of Government - present every day in the chambers directly above FDR Drive.

The Honorable
Howard L. Berman, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

The cost of these renovations is roughly \$100 million. The United Nations has advised the Department of its intent to apply up to \$100 million in credits in the UN Tax Equalization Fund (TEF) account attributable to annual US regular budget contributions to fund these critical security enhancements. The Department has briefed staff of both the authorizing and appropriations committees on the UN security situation and of the UN's intended use of TEF credits as a source of funding for this purpose.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


Patrick F. Kennedy