



MINISTER  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Cairo, 19 August 2003

Dear Secretary General,

I was shocked by the terrible news of the criminal explosion which destroyed the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

My sorrow is equal to my indignation both at the human aspect of this tragedy and at the fact that it hit a symbol of our common determination to work together to pursue the lofty goals of our Organization.

The death of Sergio Vieira de Mello, and Nadia Younes two outstanding international officials whom I was honored to consider as friends has particularly affected me. Please accept my deepest and heartfelt condolences for this big loss as well as that of all the other members of the staff who lost their lives in the service of the lofty principle, my sympathy for their families, and my wishes of quick recovery for the injured.

Such tragedies should only strengthen our resolve to help achieve the recuperation of the Iraqi people of their freedom, well being and sovereignty, so that the sacrifice of those whom we grieve not be in vain.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Maher El Sayed

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
New York