REMARKS BY MARK MALLOCH BROWN ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEPTION OF THE REMAINS OF UNITED NATIONS STAFF MEMBERS SLAIN IN IRAQ

Amman, 26 August 2003

Today, we come to bring home five souls, so cruelly taken from us, we, their families, their friends, their countrymen, their colleagues. So two families are represented here today, their own and the broader United Nations family, of which each was such a loved member.

Our Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who asked me to represent him and the UN, said last week "we, whose work is so wrapped up in the tragedy of others, now face one of own".

Here, in the calm of Jordan, with the generous help of the Government of this Kingdom, we can take stock of what we have lost. As Antoine de Saint-Exupery put it

> **"Little by little it comes over to us that we shall never again hear the laughter of our friend, that this one garden is forever locked against us. And at that moment begins our true mourning....For nothing, in truth, can replace that companion. Old friends cannot be created out of hand. Nothing can match the treasure of common memories, of trials endured together, of quarrels and reconciliations and generous emotions..."**

As the Secretary-General put it:

"… each was committed, each had braved hardships, set aside longings for home or for a quiet life, and conquered their fears…each showed the world the caring, principled face of the international civil service. Each gave us something to be proud of …"

Reham Al Farra, of Jordan, rose to her dreams to speak for the United Nations in Iraq;

Christopher Klein-Beekman, of Canada, a fast rising dedicated young star of UNICEF;

Jean-Selim Kanaan, of Egypt, fired by a humanitarian conviction and experience beyond his years expressed in his book War Against Indifference;

Fiona Watson, of the United Kingdom, whose analysis and writing shaped so much of what the UN sought to do in Iraq.

Four cut down so tragically when most of what they could contribute was still ahead. And,

Nadia Younis, of Egypt, who had already given so much; scaled the heights of New York via Kosovo, Geneva, and Iraq. Sardonic, passionate, Nadia.

Farewell dear friends. Alive you changed all of us you touched. Now your deaths have changed our very organization. You have broken our hearts and inspired us. You leave us the now even harder task of finishing what you began; but your sacrifice must be our commitment. Now we return you to your families, and they to the life beyond. Godspeed, for you have earned it.