



MEMORANDUM

À - To: Ms. Inga-Britt Ahlenius  
Under Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services

4 June 2009

De - From: Kha ilur Rahman *Kha ilur Rahman*  
Officer-in-Charge  
Division of Management  
UNCTAD

Ref: kr

Objet - Subject: Possible case of misconduct

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I have the honour to forward to you the attached note, along with its attachments for appropriate action.

cc: Ms. A. Kane  
Ms. C. Pollard  
Mr. R. Benson  
Ms. J. Beagle  
Ms. A. Djermakoye  
Mr. I. Koulov

4 June 2009

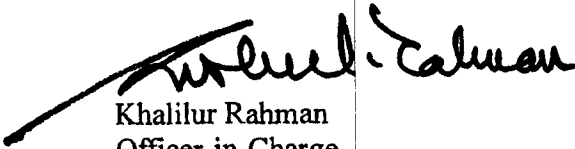
### Note

1. On 11 May 2009 at 9 am, a meeting was convened (see Attachment "A") to follow up on an email (see attachment "B") from Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, dated 10 May 2009 which he wrote from New York while on mission. This email relates to the appointment of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD which is on the agenda of the current 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (item 105j), and its subject is entitled "Game Plan" (hereinafter referred to as the "Game Plan email"). Mr. Chutikul requested the recipients of the "Game Plan email" to discuss among themselves and present a considered course of action for consideration by Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, current Secretary-General of UNCTAD.
2. At the outset of the meeting, I observed that the "Game Plan email" appeared to outline a campaign strategy in favour of reappointment of Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi for the second term as the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Considering that the email contained, inter alia, advice to some staff members to campaign certain member States to win their support, I decided, in my capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the Division on Management, to advise the staff members present at the meeting to bear in mind their respective obligations as UN staff members under the UN staff rules, staff regulations and the UN Charter (see Note at attachment "C").
3. I also observed during the meeting that in the previous few days, I myself had responded to a number of emails sent by Mr. Chutikul from New York relating to Mr. Supachai's reappointment. I noted that I had acted in good faith, trusting Mr. Chutikul's information and believing that my actions were in support of the intent of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, with the "Game Plan email", I was of the opinion that it was necessary to draw a line between what would and would not be consistent with the obligations of staff members under staff rules, regulations and the Charter. I explained to them that as the Officer-in-Charge of the Division of Management of UNCTAD, I considered it my responsibility to remind them of such obligations in this context. The staff members present at this meeting indicated that they, too, had acted in good faith thus far. One staff member, for example, subsequently sent me an email stating that his actions were in good faith (see attachment "D"). I informed staff members present at that meeting that I would brief Mr. Supachai on this matter.
4. It should be noted that some of the emails from Mr. Chutikul referred to at para 2 above contained negative references to envoys of some countries by name. For example, in the email at Attachment "E", he referred to the Permanent Representatives of Sudan (Chair of Group of 77 in New York), Cuba (Chair of the NAM), Nicaragua (delegation of the current PGA) and Libya (Chair of the African Union and host country of the AU summit of 2009) as "key players" in the context of "undermining the practice/tradition of two consecutive terms" for the UNCTAD SG. Mr. Chutikul also mentioned he would "continue to press EOSG", while noting that "we can't just wait for them to act."
5. On 14 May 2009, I met briefly with Mr. Supachai and informed him of my advice to the staff members at the afore-mentioned meeting on 11 May 2009 which was convened following Mr. Chutikul's "Game Plan email." I also noted that I had learnt that Mr. Chutikul

reportedly misunderstood my advice as 'scaring' the staff concerned, and requested Mr. Supachai to speak personally to Mr. Chutikul (see Note at Attachment "F").

6. However, a staff member forwarded to me an email from Mr. Chutikul dated 29 May 2009 (see Attachment "G") which the latter sent from New York during a subsequent trip. In this email he made a number of allegations against Mr. Gauze, a former Minister for Trade of Cote d'Ivoire and currently Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire in Geneva and a contender for the post of SG of UNCTAD along with Mr. Supachai, as well as against Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO. Mr. Chutikul alleged in this email that Mr. Gauze "in fact last year offered to be on Lamy's campaign team." Mr. Chutikul also alleged that Mr. Lamy "had campaign funds from the French" and got Mr. Gauze's "mistress in the mission hired by WTO." He alleged further that Mr. Gauze "is now facing a paternity suit for child born to another Ivorian mistress. The woman is married to a white man but the baby was born completely black." He adds: "Seems Gauze in desperate need of source of income to settle the suit and pay upkeep." Mr. Chutikul concludes this email as follows: "Pls spread as appropriate."

7. Having read this email of Mr. Chutikul, I considered it my duty, as Officer-in-Charge of the Division on Management of UNCTAD and in the interest of upholding the standard of conduct of a UN civil servant as stipulated in the UN Charter, staff rules and regulations, and the UN core values, to report the matter to the OIOS. The emails of Mr. Chutikul attached to this note point to a disturbing pattern of disregard for the standard of conduct expected from a UN staff member. Given his closeness to Mr. Supachai as his Special Adviser, one needs to take a serious view of Mr. Chutikul's comments and actions noted above, such as his advice to some UN staff members to engage in an active and organized campaign in support of Mr. Supachai's reappointment for the second term as the SG of UNCTAD; his negative references about Permanent Representatives of some member States who are apparently regarded by him as obstacles to Mr. Supachai's reappointment; and his request to staff to spread allegations against a contestant of Mr. Supachai for the same post, as well as the current DG of WTO. I, therefore, decided to refer the matter to OIOS for appropriate action.

  
Khalilur Rahman  
Officer-in-Charge  
Division of Management  
UNCTAD