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Lord Triesman of Tottenham
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

11 September 2006

Dear Minister,

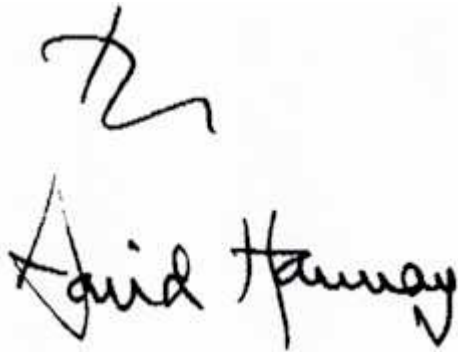
I would like to thank you for your detailed and helpful letter of 23 May 2006 in response to the United Nations Association's earlier representations on the situation in Darfur.

UNA-UK has since then been continuing to follow the unfolding situation in Sudan closely and has been deeply disturbed by the recent actions and statements of the Government of Sudan, in particular by its adamant refusal to consent to the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to Darfur, as called for in Security Council Resolution 1706 of 31 August 2006, by its policy of trying to speed the departure of the African Union mission without any replacement, and by the increasing Sudanese troop presence in Darfur. At the same time the increased risks for humanitarian workers in Darfur and the reports of continuing gross breaches of international humanitarian law require, in our view, much greater involvement of the international community if an already disastrous situation is not to become even worse.

UNA-UK was very encouraged by the agreed statement by Heads of State and Government at the UN Summit in September 2005 endorsing the responsibility of the whole international community to protect individuals against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We feel that Darfur is precisely an example of a situation in which that responsibility does devolve on the international community, since the Sudanese Government has shown itself time and again to be either unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens. We would therefore urge the British Government to press for the adoption of a further Security Council resolution stating that there now existed an urgent international responsibility to protect the people of Darfur. We would hope that there could be widespread support from the countries of the African Union for such an approach. It would need to be made clear to the Government of Sudan that failure to respond to this would lead to negative consequences.

At the same time, UNA-UK believes that it is essential to resume efforts through the Abuja process to agree terms which all the parties, including the Government of Sudan and the different rebel movements, can accept to bring about a lasting solution to the problems in Darfur.

We would hope that the presence in New York later this month of so many world leaders and ministers could result in some decisive progress being made to deal effectively with an issue which so far has been characterised more by divided counsels and infirmity of purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized monogram above the full name 'Lord Hannay' written in a cursive script.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Chair, United Nations Association-UK