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*From The Minister of State*

12 July 2009

Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
Chair, UNA-UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London  
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*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 11 June, proposing additional ways to recognise outstanding services to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Both the Foreign Secretary and I applaud the sacrifices that UN peacekeepers make for international security and would like to find a way to more fully recognise those UK citizens who have lost their lives whilst serving in UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. So I welcome your proposals in this area.

UNA-UK has suggested a UN medal for exceptional bravery or merit, to be made by the UN Security Council on the recommendation of the UN Secretary-General. I have asked UKMis to provide advice on whether this idea would gain support across the UN system, including in DPKO and on the 38<sup>th</sup> floor. Optically, I think the idea would work better if it comes from the Secretary-General rather than one member state. But subject to reactions from UKMis, I would be happy to encourage the Secretary-General to consider this proposal.

I am also attracted to the symbolism of a memorial to UK citizens who have lost their lives whilst serving in UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. I think it would create a welcome recognition of the value of service in international organisations, as well as more up-to-date image of the work of the British armed forces. We would be happy to work with you to support this initiative and to try and identify sources of funding.

Thank you again for all the work you do with the UNA-UK and in Parliament. It is enormously valuable and greatly appreciated.

*Yours ever*

*Mark*

Rt. Hon. Lord Malloch-Brown  
Minister of State