

23rd July 2015



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

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Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chair, United Nations Association - UK
3 Whitehall Court
London
SW1A 2EL

Dear Sir Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June and for inviting me to join your association at the wreath-laying ceremony to pay tribute to the commitment, bravery and dedication of all of those peacekeepers who work tirelessly to uphold international peace and security.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have consulted the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on your suggestion of a UK medal. The MoD believes that UK personnel who serve on UN peacekeeping missions are already recognised through the current procedures. Any member of the UK Armed Forces who deploys on a UN peacekeeping operation may become eligible for the appropriate UN medal if they meet the minimum qualifying criteria. Furthermore, if personnel were exposed to levels of risk or to arduous conditions, such that they would normally merit medallic recognition in the UK honours and awards system, permission to wear the UN medal may be sought from Her Majesty the Queen.

I appreciated your thoughtful suggestions of other ways to honour the commitment and dedication of British UN Peacekeepers. I agree that the symbolism of a memorial is attractive; however, the British Government does not fund memorials. All those who have lost their lives whilst in the service of our country since the end of the Second World War are commemorated at the Armed Forces Memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum and this includes those deployed in support of UN Peacekeeping operations.

These are exciting times for UN Peacekeeping: the Secretary General's Review of Peacekeeping is a great opportunity to reflect on where we are now and to look ahead to the kind of peace support operations the international community will need in the future. Over the coming months, I will be working to ensure practical and implementable recommendations from the Review can be delivered to achieve our shared objective: strengthened UN Peacekeeping with the capacity to tackle modern conflicts.

Warm regards,
Jaye

RT HON BARONESS ANELAY OF ST JOHNS DBE
MINISTER OF STATE