



Security Council

Distr.: General
6 July 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 25 June 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my report of 5 June 2007 (S/2007/330) pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004), and specifically action V, concerning security and operational issues related to the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

As indicated in my report, the security situation in Iraq remains complex and unpredictable. Security continues to present a major challenge for United Nations activities in the country. This is particularly the case in the international zone in Baghdad, where a wide range of mitigation measures to address the growing risk of indirect fire and other threats are required. United Nations staff members working in Baghdad were recently moved to accommodation facilities with hardened overhead protection, and the three operating locations of UNAMI inside the international zone require strict curfews and limitations on travel.

Despite ongoing efforts to ensure the security and safety of United Nations personnel in the international zone, current UNAMI facilities in the international zone fall far short of adequate long-term requirements to ensure secure working and accommodation conditions for United Nations staff. Only the expeditious construction of a hardened integrated compound would address the growing long-term security and logistic challenges faced by the Mission in Baghdad and allow it to carry out its mandate effectively. Consequently, it is of the utmost urgency that planning for the construction of a new United Nations compound in Baghdad starts immediately. The high level of specification for security features and the paucity of suitable construction contractors will inevitably lead to relatively high construction costs.

Further to the Security Council statement to the press of 13 June 2007 welcoming the planning for the construction of a new UNAMI compound in Baghdad, I should be grateful if you could confirm that the above-mentioned project is acceptable to the Security Council. It would then be my intention to proceed to request the necessary funds within the context of the budgeting provisions for special political missions. That would permit the prompt initiation of the necessary studies and construction work for a new United Nations building in Baghdad.

(Signed) **Ban Ki-moon**

