



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Excellency,

Further to my letter of 2 June 2006, regarding the issue of the selection of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to transmit to you a memo from my meeting yesterday with the President of the Security Council for the month of July 2006, Ambassador de La Sablière of France, on the latest developments of the selection process in the Council.

I will continue to keep you informed about my meetings with the President of the Security Council on this important matter.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Jan Eliasson

All the Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Memo from the meeting between the President of the General Assembly, Mr Eliasson, and the President of the Security Council for the month of July 2006, the Permanent Representative of France, Ambassador de La Sablière on 5 July 2006

On 5 July, the President of the Security Council, Ambassador de La Sablière of France, on behalf of all members of the Security Council, conveyed the following oral message to the President of the General Assembly (PGA) regarding the issue of the selection of the next Secretary-General:

- In the spirit of increased transparency of the selection process in the Security Council and of enhanced interaction with the General Assembly on this important matter, I wish to inform you, and through you the membership at large, on the latest developments of the process in the Council.
- This meeting is a follow-up to meetings with previous Presidents of the Security Council, the last being on 2 June, which your office memo records.
- The Security Council had announced on that occasion its intention to start early July, initially through informal consultations, the process of consideration of candidacies which will have been presented to its President by a member State.
- The Security Council has now decided to start the process by conducting straw-polling in the second half of July. The Security Council will decide at a later stage the exact timing of this.
- Straw-polls are not formal votes. They are only indicative. They have been very helpful in the past to facilitate agreement between Council members. They also allow candidates to assess the support they enjoy.
- The straw-polls will permit Council members to encourage or discourage candidates (it is the formula which shall be used at least for the first round). They may also decide to express no opinion. The number of "encouragements"/"discouragements" or "no opinion expressed" received by a candidate during a round of straw-polling will be communicated to the candidate, as well as to the Permanent Representative of the State presenting that candidate. The candidate and the Permanent Representative concerned will also be informed, in order to give them a sense of the situation in the Council, of the highest and lowest "scores" received by a candidate during the same round, without attributing these to any individual candidate.
- The Security Council is committed to continuing to keep the President of the General Assembly, and through him the membership at large, informed on the next steps.