



439 Hart
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Send to Katy

JAN 18 2006

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2005 in which you express support for Ambassador Bolton's intention to vote against the United Nations budget unless significant reforms in the organization are also accepted. We greatly appreciate the support.

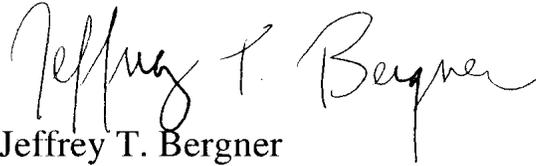
We are pleased that meaningful progress in the UN was achieved on December 23, 2005 when the General Assembly approved a spending cap on the next UN budget, subject to further progress on UN reform measures. The budget agreement limits the Secretary-General's spending authority to \$950 million (approximately 6 months of expenditures) in 2006, after which he will be required to seek further spending authority from the General Assembly for the balance of the year. This agreement is consistent with the U.S. objective of enabling the continuation of on-going UN operations on a temporary basis, while setting an effective deadline for the implementation of management and other reforms.

We also are pleased that the budget agreement addresses a number of our immediate objectives on management reform, including provision for an independent external review of UN audit and oversight capabilities, the establishment of a UN Ethics Office and the creation of an Independent Audit Advisory Committee. Important reforms remain to be achieved, however, including the establishment of the new Human Rights Council and the review of UN mandates that are more than five years old. We expect implementation of these within the next six months, prior to renewal of any spending authority for the UN.

The Honorable
Tom Coburn,
United States Senate.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.
Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs