



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Secretary of State

17 November 2015

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

Dear Jeremy

Thank you for your letter of 15 September which made recommendations for where my office should focus its efforts in support of the United Nations on its 70th Anniversary. I am sorry for the delay in replying. I have noted the detailed suggestions in your letter, many of which I agree with, and passed them to the directors of Counter Proliferation Department and Multilateral Policy Department.

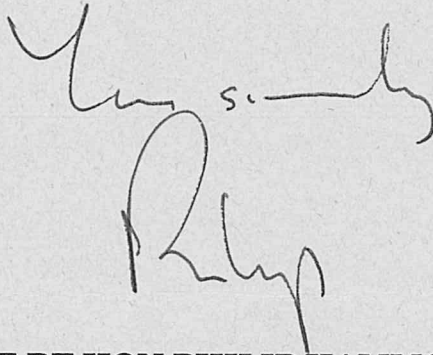
I have, on many occasions, stressed that as one of the most open economies in the world, the UK has a greater stake than most in securing a world that operates according to a rules-based system. A system in which international norms are respected, differences are resolved through the application of legal principles and global challenges addressed through international co-operation. The rules-based international order is not only in Britain's interest but in the interest of building a more stable, secure and prosperous world. The United Nations is the cornerstone of this.

In its 70 years of existence, the UN has become a powerful and universally-recognised expression of our collective will to find solutions to the most difficult challenges we face. The UK is proud of the active role it plays in strengthening the UN and the order it helps to sustain. We are the only Security Council member, indeed, the only major economy in the world, whose international commitments to defence and foreign aid are matched in our spending. Living up to international rules is part of the British way of diplomacy. Our commitment to the UN and to the wider rules-based system will be at the heart of the National Security Strategy (NSS) and the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR); both of which should be published soon. I would welcome your continued involvement as the Government moves towards their implementation.

I hope that the UNA welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement on the UK's significant new contribution to UN Peace Operations. The Prime Minister has agreed that the UK will deploy personnel to Somalia as part of the UN support for the African Union force that is working to build stability in the country and counter the threat posed by the terrorist group Al-Shabab. The UK troops would provide medical, logistical and engineering support. Further troops would be sent to carry out specific tasks in South Sudan such as providing vital engineering work to strengthen infrastructure and combat

training and advisory support. This would underline the UK's commitment to a more stable South Sudan, where millions of people are displaced and facing food shortages.

I look forward to continuing our very positive co-operation with UNA in our shared objective of making the UN both more effective in the world and better understood in the UK.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Hammond', written in a cursive style.

THE RT HON PHILIP HAMMOND MP