G-77

Note for Mr. Nambiar

Office Space for the G-77

The purpose of this note is to update you on the situation involving office swing space for the G-77 Secretariat. The G-77 presently has office space on the 39th floor of the Secretariat Building and, like all building occupants, their offices will be relocated in the coming months to make way for construction.

After extensive consultation over the past year, the Office of the Capital Master Plan agreed in October 2008 to provide prime office swing space for the G-77 on the First Floor of the Dag Hammarskjold Library Building. At every step of the relocation planning process, we kept the G-77 secretariat staff informed. During the past six months we worked closely to increase the size of their office space on the same floor of the Library.

After the relocation plan was finalized in February 2009, the new Chairman of the G-77 expressed dissatisfaction with the location of the space. The Chairman's position is that the G-77 deserves space "higher" than the first floor of the DHL Building. Although construction is already underway on this space, the G-77 has requested alternative space. This new request will result in increased cost and unacceptable delays.

At this late date, with construction already underway, there are no easy options to offer to G-77. Our only option would be to provide the group with the temporary use of the Fourth Floor (Penthouse) of the DHL Building for the duration of the Secretariat's renovation. This is the only "unclaimed" space within the compound. This space, however, is currently used periodically by the Secretary-General and senior staff of the Organization for special events. In addition, the space is used on Fridays as a mosque and on Tuesdays for a meditation group. Use of the Penthouse is governed by paragraph 5 of ST/AI/145/Rev.1 (18 June 1970), which states that the Penthouse is considered "an adjunct to the Secretary-General's suite, and its use is strictly limited to functions approved by the Secretary-General."

I recommend that we adhere to our present relocation plan. I would be grateful for your approval of this proposal.

Angela Kane 22 May 2009

cc: Mr Adlerstein