THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

January 3, 2006

His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, New York 10017

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern about the United Nations "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" on November 29, 2005. Of specific and most immediate concern is the signal potentially sent when three top UN officials, yourself, and the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, participate in an event with a "map of Palestine" prominently displayed which erases the state of Israel. We firmly believe that it was entirely inappropriate for this map to be used. It can be misconstrued to suggest that the United Nations tacitly supports the abolition of the state of Israel. Moreover, given that we now have a world leader pursuing nuclear weapons who is calling for the state of Israel to be "wiped off the map," the issue has even greater salience.

In light of these concerns, we would appreciate if the Secretariat could help clarify several issues related to this event by answering several questions: First, who is the highest level official within the Secretariat who approved use of the map for the event? Second, does the United Nations intend to use the map in future U.N. sponsored functions and events? Third, in light of prohibitions under U.S. law to fund events such as this one, do you consider it appropriate for the United Nations to advertise and promote the event on its general website and other venues, which do in fact benefit from U.S. funds?

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response and working together to resolve this important matter.

Sincerely,

John R. Bolton

cc: H.E. Amb. Jan Eliasson, *President of the UN General Assembly*
H.E. Amb. Augustine P. Mahiga, *President of the UN Security Council for January 2006*
H.E. Amb. Dan Gillerman, *Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN*