

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY COMMITTEE
INTO
THE UNITED NATIONS OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAMME

825 THIRD AVENUE
FIFTEENTH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

TELEPHONE: 212.842.2500/4500
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www.iic-offp.org

PAUL A. VOLCKER
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. GOLDSTONE
MARK PIETH
MEMBERS

September 24, 2004

The Honorable Joe Barton
Chairman
The Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

As you may be aware, Ms. Anna Di Lellio, who has been on our staff to provide liaison with the press and public, has resigned. There is no doubt that in an interview a year after 9/11, she made remarks highly critical of U.S. and European political leadership, and those remarks were couched in intemperate terms. While they in no way directly concerned the United Nations or our Independent Inquiry, Ms. Di Lellio immediately recognized that any ensuing controversy about her views and background could complicate our investigation and so took the initiative to tender her resignation.

In the circumstances, the Committee thought it appropriate to accept her resignation, despite our confidence in her work with the Committee and her dedication to our work.

Ms. Di Lellio, by profession, is a writer and freelance journalist. There have been suggestions that somehow her appointment was related to previous employment with the U.N. The fact is that she never was a career U.N. official. She was briefly a contract employee of the World Food Organization in Kosovo and East Timor in 1999, dealing with the press, and again for four months at the end of 2003 and into 2004, she had a U.N. contract in Kosovo as an advisor.

Her contact with our Committee this summer was entirely at the initiative of a Committee member who had heard favorably of her work. References, including senior U.K. personnel active in Kosovo, strongly confirmed the value of her work. No U.N. official was contacted or involved with her appointment.

I enclose her letter of resignation and my response, as well as a short statement for the press which we will release along with this letter.

Sincerely,



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September 24, 2004

The Honorable Norm Coleman
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Room 199 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

As you may be aware, Ms. Anna Di Lellio, who has been on our staff to provide liaison with the press and public, has resigned. There is no doubt that in an interview a year after 9/11, she made remarks highly critical of U.S. and European political leadership, and those remarks were couched in intemperate terms. While they in no way directly concerned the United Nations or our Independent Inquiry, Ms. Di Lellio immediately recognized that any ensuing controversy about her views and background could complicate our investigation and so took the initiative to tender her resignation.

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RICHARD J. GOLDSTONE
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September 24, 2004

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hyde:

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September 24, 2004

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

As you may be aware, Ms. Anna Di Lellio, who has been on our staff to provide liaison with the press and public, has resigned. There is no doubt that in an interview a year after 9/11, she made remarks highly critical of U.S. and European political leadership, and those remarks were couched in intemperate terms. While they in no way directly concerned the United Nations or our Independent Inquiry, Ms. Di Lellio immediately recognized that any ensuing controversy about her views and background could complicate our investigation and so took the initiative to tender her resignation.

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September 24, 2004

The Honorable Christopher Shays
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats,
and International Relations
House of Representatives
Room B-372 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shays:

As you may be aware, Ms. Anna Di Lellio, who has been on our staff to provide liaison with the press and public, has resigned. There is no doubt that in an interview a year after 9/11, she made remarks highly critical of U.S. and European political leadership, and those remarks were couched in intemperate terms. While they in no way directly concerned the United Nations or our Independent Inquiry, Ms. Di Lellio immediately recognized that any ensuing controversy about her views and background could complicate our investigation and so took the initiative to tender her resignation.

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