

20 October 2005

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (the "Commission") prepared pursuant to resolution 1595 (2005) which established the Commission to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of the 14 February 2005 bombing that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 22 others.

The report details progress made in the investigation of the crime and sets out the conclusions reached by the Commission at this stage of the investigation. It is important to note that a criminal investigation is yet to be completed. To that end, the report points out in some detail, the steps necessary to advance further the investigation as it is taken up by the Lebanese authorities, including the need for greater cooperation from all states, particularly the Syrian Arab Republic.

I wish to thank Mr. Detlev Mehlis, Head of the Commission, and the members of his team for their excellent work under difficult circumstances. They have carried out their task in an impartial, independent and professional manner. The attached report, by necessity, is only the essence of their meticulous efforts. The Commission has transferred to the Lebanese authorities the full product of its work. This consists of more than 16,000 pages of documents, including the transcripts of interviews of 450 witnesses and suspects.

I would also thank the Government of the Lebanese Republic for its support for, and cooperation with, the Commission.

It is my intention to extend the mandate of the Commission until 15 December 2005 in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 1595 (2005). During this period the Commission would continue its investigation of the crime and assist the Lebanese authorities to further the investigation. This extension was also requested by His Excellency, Mr. Fuad Siniora, the President of the Council of Ministers of the Lebanese Republic, in a letter to me dated 13 October.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Council. Meanwhile, I am transmitting the report to the Government of Lebanon.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. Mihnea Ioan Motoc
President of the Security Council
New York