



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

December 15, 2003

Mr. Walid Maalouf
Public Delegate
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Maalouf:

I am writing to thank you for your outstanding contributions to this Mission and the United States during your tenure as a U.S. Public Delegate to the 58th session of the UN General Assembly.

Your colleagues here at USUN join me in commending your energy, patience, and interest in advancing the President's agenda while representing America to delegates from other countries with warmth and grace.

Our "Middle East team" counted you as an integral, indispensable member. Without question, your outreach to Arab delegates in particular was a great asset in our efforts. I believe you were the first US representative to deliver a speech at the UN in Arabic, a dramatic gesture at a time when the Arab-speaking world needs to know that the United States is a diverse, open-society where all citizens' ethnic heritage is valued.

You were invaluable in helping us in the Sixth Committee by raising the cloning issue with some of the Arab states and convincing them to support the Costa Rica draft resolution. You also brought great credibility to your careful articulation of the US position on an Israeli initiative concerning children who are victims of terrorism.

By the same token, your commitment to advancing our work on economic-related issues reflected enormous expertise and understanding.

I am personally grateful for the sacrifices you made to be with us during this General Assembly. US Public Delegates enrich American diplomacy, put the world in closer touch with our society, and make this Mission much more effective in meeting its responsibilities.

Thank you again for your dedication and goodwill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Negroponte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John D. Negroponte