

Seventy-eighth session
Quito, Ecuador, 27-28 June 2006
Provisional agenda item 3

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Addendum 1

Note by Secretary-General

The Members of the Council will find below a copy of the correspondence exchanged between Mr. James B. Warlick, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs of the United States, and the UNWTO Secretary-General.

The recent letter of the Department of State confirms what was indicated in the main document (CE/78/3): there is no obstacle in principle to the return of the United States to the World Tourism Organization and all the government agencies concerned support such a step, beginning with the Commerce Department, which is responsible for tourism, and which has recommended such a return. The difficulty that remains is of an exclusively financial nature, and the decision at this point seems to depend more on Congress rather than on the Executive branch. This being the case, the Secretary-General is continuing his efforts mainly in this direction.



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DIVISION	AMERICA
SECTION	...
Nº	1.21

United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for International Organization Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520-6319

May 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

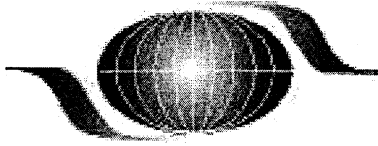
Thank you for your note on the desirability of and procedures for a possible return of the United States of America to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). We recognize the substantial efforts of UNWTO in support of global travel and tourism initiatives and its role as a global forum for tourism policy issues. The work of UNWTO in the area of disseminating statistics on world travel and tourism trends is commendable.

We appreciate the interest of the UNWTO in inviting the United States to become a member of this esteemed organization. We regret to inform you, however, that the United States is not in a position to rejoin the World Tourism Organization at this time due to budgetary constraints.

Sincerely,

James B. Warlick, Acting

The Honorable
 Francesco Frangialli,
 Secretary General,
 World Tourism Organization,
 Captain Haya, 42,
 28020 Madrid, Spain.



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU TOURISME
 WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION
 ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DEL TURISMO
 ВОСЕМЬНАДЦАТЬ ТУРИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
 منظمة السياحة العالمية

Mr. James B. Warlick
 Acting Assistant Secretary of State for
 International Organization Affairs
 United States Department of State
WASHINGTON, DC 20520-6319
 United States of America

Madrid, 15 June 2006

Dear Mr. Warlick,

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2006, concerning the possible return of the United States of America to membership of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

I am pleased to learn of the United States Department of State's favourable view of the role and efforts of UNWTO in support of the development of world tourism.

I am also happy to note that the State Department's positive appreciation coincides with that of the Commerce Department expressed in November 2003 in the framework of the Letter of Recommendation to the effect that the United States of America rejoin UNWTO. It also confirms the results of the Inter-Agency consultation that followed this recommendation.

I therefore understand that the problem is, at this time, only of a financial nature, and sincerely hope that this final obstacle can be overcome.

I propose to inform the forthcoming 78th session of our Executive Council to be held at Quito, Ecuador, on June 27 and 28 of this situation and I am confident that all the Council Members will continue to encourage the United States of America to rejoin UNWTO.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Frangiulli

