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March 23, 2011

Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon  
United Nations  
2 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

RE: IBEW Local 1212 and the United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

By way of introduction, I am the President of the New York State AFL-CIO representing 2.5 million union members. I have recently been made aware of some developments at the United Nations, which I can only characterize as disconcerting. Broadcasting Engineers represented by IBEW Local 1212 have expressed their disappointment with the United Nations' efforts to "re-organize" in such a manner that would eliminate seventeen (17) positions from the bargaining unit. My understanding is that these positions will be placed under the direct auspices of the United Nations at lower wage rates, decreased pension benefits, and without the benefit of Union representation. Additionally, to the extent such positions are not filled with applicants from the bargaining unit, IBEW Local 1212 members will be laid-off. It's troubling that an organization devoted to:

- reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- establishing conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

would implement such a drastic change in conditions on employees that have loyally served the United Nations for over sixty years.

One would hope that, during a time where public sector workers in America and workers across the world are facing unwarranted political and legislative attacks, and are being blamed for all the ills resulting from the financial meltdown, the United Nations would set the example for the treatment of workers for all to follow. Unfortunately, it appears that instead of setting the

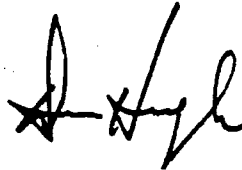
Page 2  
March 23, 2011

example, the United Nations is following the crowd; punishing employees for the mistakes of corporations and senior management.

The New York State AFL-CIO is providing its full political and public relations support to the members of IBEW Local 1212 employed at the United Nations. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a meeting to clearly confirm your intention preserve the presence and work jurisdiction of IBEW Local 1212 at the United Nations in the future and to initiate progressive discussions between management and labor on moving forward.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very truly yours,



Denis M. Hughes  
President, NYS AFL-CIO

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cc:

Deputy Secretary General – Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro  
Assistant Secretary-General – Mr. Robert C. Orr - [o](#)  
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Congressman Anthony Weiner  
IBEW President & Legislative Director

General Assembly and  
of Public Information  
of Management