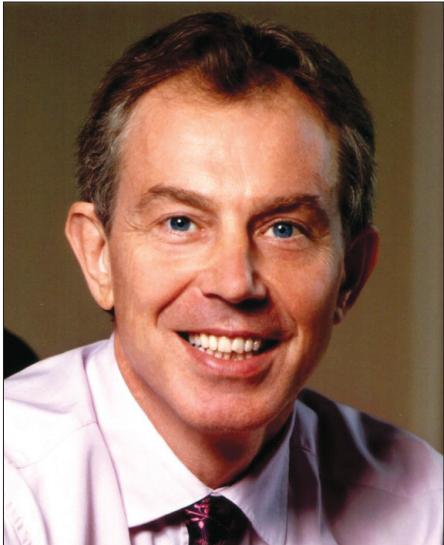**1O DOWNING STREET**
LONDON SW1A 2AA

## Message from Rt Hon Tony Blair MP Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

I am delighted to welcome President Nambaryn Enkhbayar on his first visit to the United Kingdom as President of the Republic of Mongolia. Our two countries have enjoyed excellent relations for more than forty years. I am particularly proud of the United Kingdom's status as the first western country to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia. I was delighted that the Duke of York and the Lord Mayor of London were able to visit Mongolia at difference times last year to join the landmark 800th Anniversary celebrations of Mongolia's extraordinary history.

While there is much to celebrate in our history, the relationship between our two countries is very much about the present day. Today our two countries enjoy a relationship based on common values of parliamentary democracy, free trade and the maintenance of the rights of the individual. I welcome Mongolia's active role in international order and security and on counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation. We have greatly admired and appreciated the contribution of Mongolian troops to peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Afghanistan and to the coalition in Iraq. I hope that this cooperation will continue.

The UK's trade and investment links with Mongolia continue to strengthen. Mongolia has set a fine example in taking steps to reform its economy and we recognise the positive results of the country's open economic policy. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mongolia's accession to the WTO. Mongolia's positive approach to foreign investment has already attracted considerable interest from British business in diverse areas including natural resources and power generation.

I am very much looking forward to meeting President Enkhbayar. We last met when he visited London as Prime Minister in 2003. We will have a chance to discuss many of the issues that concern us both and explore ways to bring our two countries even closer together. **F**

*Tony Blair*