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December 4, 2019

The Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton  
Vice President  
Thomson Reuters  
610 Opperman Drive  
Eagan, MN 55123

Dear Sharon:

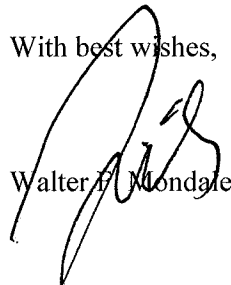
It was exciting to learn that, in partnership with Books For Africa, Thomson Reuters has now sent 100 reference law libraries to African law schools and other legal organizations. I am sorry that I am unable to attend the celebration on December 10th.

As you know, Jack Mason was one of my best friends. He was a member of the board of Books For Africa at the time of his death, so I was honored and excited to join Kofi Annan as co-chair of the Advisory Board of a program named after him to send law books to African recipients. That was in 2008. That you have now sent over 100 of these law libraries is wonderful, and certainly a cause for celebration!

The rule of law is fundamental for the development of a healthy democracy, good governance and a prosperous economy. Building and embedding democracy can be a long and difficult process. Your provision of law books to institutions that are teaching and administering the law has a transformative impact well beyond the classroom or courtroom. It helps strengthen the rule of law and thereby improve the lives of thousands of people and their communities.

Please extend my sincere thanks to all the employees at Thomson Reuters for the important work you are doing to further the rule of law across Africa. I'm with you in this endeavor. Together with Books For Africa let's keep moving ahead.

With best wishes,



Walter F. Mondale