Dear President Cardoso,

I am delighted to send you and all Brazilians congratulations on the 500th Anniversary of the Discovery of Brazil.

The anniversary is an occasion to celebrate Brazil's success in building a single nation from its diverse cultures and peoples and across its vast territory. It is also a moment to consider the future. Brazil has, under your leadership, laid firm foundations for the new century: a modern economy and a fairer society.

The new century presents us with many challenges. We must all work to ensure that the benefits of globalisation are fairly shared and that, in bringing prosperity, we protect our environment and value our unique cultural traditions.

It gives me great satisfaction that Brazil and the United Kingdom are forging a stronger partnership than ever. I look forward to working with you to face the challenges ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Blair

His Excellency President Fernando Henrique Cardoso GCB