



Embattled Lubbers resigns UN post

The Associated Press

GENEVA: Ruud Lubbers told Secretary General Kofi Annan on Sunday that he was resigning as the high commissioner for refugees because of a lack of confidence in him over sexual harassment charges.

Lubbers's letter of resignation as UN High Commissioner for Refugees was sent to Annan on Sunday, a spokesman said.

"The complaint of sexual harassment could not be substantiated," Lubbers wrote.

"For more than four years I gave all my energy to UNHCR," he said. "Now in the middle of a series of problems and with ongoing media pressure you apparently view this differently."

After allegations first surfaced last year that Lubbers had made unwanted sexual advances toward a female employee, Annan said there were insufficient grounds to dismiss him.

But on Friday, Annan consulted lawyers, clearly angered at the resurgence of sexual harassment allegations after a newspaper report that included graphic details.

Lubbers maintained his innocence. Indicating the secretary general had decided it was time for him to go, Lubbers said, "To be frank, and despite all my loyalty, insult has now been added to injury and therefore I resign as high commissioner."

Warren Hoge of The New York Times reported earlier:

In a news conference Friday, Lubbers said that the assertions of sexual harassment were "made up," that investigators from the UN watchdog agency had

Several hundred people protested in Brussels on Sunday against the visit of President George W. Bush, who was arriving for meetings with EU and NATO leaders.

Yves Herman/Reuters

European Union leaders in battle for Bush's ear

By Graham Bowley

Speeches and dinner invitations limited

BRUSSELS: A sensitive diplomatic dance of manners begins here Monday when President George W. Bush meets European Union leaders — even before they touch on the serious matters of

But in order to avoid Bush being overwhelmed by a cacophony of voices, and Babel of languages, only a handful of European leaders have been allow

EU commissioners. Finally, he dines with José Manuel Barroso, the commission president; Juncker and Javier Solana, the EU's chief diplomat.

past two years, Chirac, at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Brussels.

On Tuesday morning, he breakfasts with his closest European ally, Blair, as his motorcade travels out to

late

its