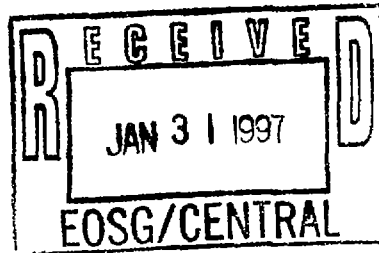




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

SG/Election (J)  
Japan

10012 - 001



8 January 1997

Excellency,

I should like to thank you most sincerely for your kind message on my appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I greatly appreciate your good wishes, which will serve as a source of strength and encouragement for my endeavours in the service of the international community. Japan contributes to the United Nations in many important ways, and I look forward to our close and constructive cooperation in the promotion of peace and greater understanding among the nations of the world and in the strengthening of our Organization.

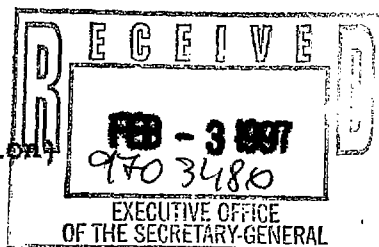
I wish to send my best wishes for your personal well-being and for the prosperity of the people of Japan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto  
Prime Minister of Japan  
Tokyo

(Translation)



Tokyo, December 26, 1996

Excellency,

I heartily congratulate you on your appointment as the Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The importance of the role of the United Nations has further increased in a new international environment in the post-Cold War era, and the expectations of the Member States towards the United Nations is higher than ever.

I am convinced that, with your vast experience in the United Nations and strong leadership, the United Nations will be further strengthened through its reform and that it will successfully deal with various challenges that the international community is likely to face.

Over the past four decades since its admission to the United Nations, Japan has consistently made its commitment to the United Nations one of the main pillars of its foreign policy. Japan intends to discharge its responsibility for world peace and prosperity more actively and more constructively, faithfully upholding the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

I wish Your Excellency every success in the future.

Ryutaro Hashimoto  
Prime Minister of Japan

His Excellency  
Mr. Kofi Annan  
Under-Secretary General  
Department of Peace Keeping Operations  
The United Nations  
New York

S&P OFFICE

#5 29 Jan