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His Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki -moon,

Secretary- General,

United Nations,

1 February 2010

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Thank you so much for the message that you sent for the celebration in India. I am most grateful for your kindness.

May I inform you that unfortunately, I had to cancel the trip to India for medical reasons.

The photo exhibition of my father is displayed at India International Center (IIC) starting today for a week but the celebration is postponed.

I also wanted to share with you a notice that The U Thant Institute sent to our supporters about the UN's critical work in Haiti. As the Institute grows so will our voice for all the too silent successes that have occurred - and will certainly continue to occur - under your leadership.

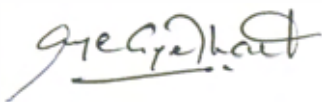
I am also enclosing a year end newsletter of the Institute.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success in your endeavors for peace and prosperity in the world.

Wishing you and Mrs. Ban a very Happy New Year!

With warmest regards

Sincerely,



(Aye Aye Thant)



Dear Friends,

This past Friday, January 22, marked the 101st birth anniversary of my father, U Thant, during which we at The U Thant Institute spent with many of you meditating on the tragedy in Haiti and sending our thoughts and prayers to the Haitian people.

In his memoir, ***View from the UN***, my father wrote that "when I travelled in the poor continents, I heard everywhere expressions of thanks for the splendid cooperation between the rich and poor people of the world... It is a sign of hope for mankind – that part of the struggle for economic and social betterment is waged under the common flag of the United Nations. The United Nations has a moral meaning for the children of (those) countries for they have received the imprints of love from fellow human beings at a time when the mind and the heart are very receptive. Seeds of future understanding and solidarity have thus been sown."

In the aftermath of the **terrible** earthquake in Haiti, we have witnessed the extraordinary outpouring of support and assistance from the international community from every corner of the globe. As members of this global village, I know many of you have opened your hearts for the people of Haiti. So far, through the UN, \$334 million have been contributed and pledged.

The UN itself has suffered its single greatest loss of life in its history. As of January 19, we learned that 70 UN staff members had perished and 146 were as yet unaccounted for. Despite suffering devastating losses, the troops and police of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (known as MINUSTAH) have cleared main roads, removed bodies and conducted patrols with the Haitian National Police, which is gradually recovering from its own losses. There are altogether nine UN Agencies working in Haiti. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) itself is now delivering two million meals to Haitians. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the main challenges are post-operative care and logistical support to the health facilities in terms of fuel and medical supplies.

The U Thant Institute is inspired by this human solidarity. I wish to reflect on my father's faith in humanity when he said, "the record of the human race is not all of **war** and horror. It has been sustained through generations by quiet compassion and all-encompassing love".

The U Thant Institute also wants to help answer the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call that relief efforts be tightly coordinated with the UN's efforts. We would like to offer our assistance to you in achieving this. If your community, company, school or place of worship has organized a fund for the Haitian people and would like to understand how your efforts can best support the UN's field initiatives and thus improve the overall aid, please send your request to Alexandria Faiz at afaiz@uthantinstitute.org. Depending on your requests, we will organize an individual or group response by the second week in February. We are also planning to make the topic of improving disaster relief the highlight of our annual Ambassadors' Luncheon this spring.

The U Thant Institute joins our fellow world citizens in their prayers for the victims of this devastating earthquake.

Grateful for your continued support,

Aye Aye Thant
Founder and President
The U Thant Institute



UN Photo/Sophia Paris

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)'s Brazilian peacekeepers and United States soldiers distribute food and water in the slum of Cité Soleil, Haiti. January 24, 2010

May Peace Prevail On Earth: Planting a Peace Pole

On September 21, Daw Aye Aye Thant led the planting of a peace pole, inscribed with “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in many languages, at the Quaker Connecticut Friends School in Norwalk. She spoke about The U Thant Institute’s **Friendship Across Cultures Program** which continues her father’s vision of peace through education by developing friendships among young students to promote tolerance, compassion, cooperation, and mutual understanding

University of Connecticut Photo Exhibition and Symposium

A photo exhibition, “Toward One World”, illustrating the life and work of U Thant was organized at the University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus, on October 27. It was launched by United Nations Under-Secretary-General Kiyo Akasaka, reflecting that U Thant was a visionary who urged the UN forward to “meet the needs and hopes of peoples everywhere”. The exhibition images reflected “a decade of experience in the cockpit of world tensions” as described by U Thant in his memoirs.

The opening of the Exhibition was followed by a Symposium to address “Cooperative Trickle-Up Initiatives in Southeast Asia”. The Symposium re-focused U Thant’s legacy by reviewing current social and economic problems facing the majority of the world’s population and proposing ways to improve the situation in both humanitarian fields, as well as in international trade.

The Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations, Ambassador Norachit Sinhaseni, gave the keynote address. Panelists included Mr. William Abrams, President of the “Trickle Up Program” and Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, Director, Capacity Development Group, UN Development Program.

The events were organized by The U Thant Institute in cooperation with the University Of Connecticut School of Business. The Photo Exhibition and Symposium was hosted by the University of Connecticut Center for Globalization and Commerce. Co-sponsors included the United Nations Association of Connecticut, the Business Council of Fairfield County, the Connecticut Information Technology Institute, the Stamford Chamber of Commerce, and the World Affairs Forum.

Asian Heritage Week at Bergen Community College

Photos were on exhibit during Bergen Community College’s Asian Heritage Week from November 9 to 12, which also featured a personal interview by President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan with Daw Aye Aye Thant on November 9. Daw Aye Aye Thant spoke about her father’s quest for world peace and about the Institute she founded to honor his memory.



Celebrating the Centennial Birth Anniversary of U Thant

1909 – 2009

The year 2009 marked the Centennial Birth Anniversary of U Thant, who was born on January 22, 1909, in the town of Pantanaw, Burma/Myanmar. Celebratory events were held in many parts of the world.

Myanmar Celebration

Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary began with a Gala at the Inya Lake Hotel in Myanmar's historical city of Yangon on his birth date, January 22. In a message sent to the Celebration, His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, stated that "[U Thant's] approach to global challenges was also informed by a strong commitment to the practice of compassion and tolerance bred of his devotion to Buddhism" and expressed "greatest admiration for him and his life of public service".

UN Commemorative Stamps

The United Nations honored the memory of U Thant by issuing three commemorative stamps by the United Nations Postal Administration, showcased in a public display at the United Nations building in New York.

UN Day of Commemoration

A Day of Commemoration organized by The U Thant Institute celebrated the legacy of U Thant. His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Mrs. Ban Soon-taek were among the honored guests at a Luncheon in the United Nations Delegates Dining Room on June 3. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that, "Whenever I need inspiration, I can find it in U Thant". He emphasized that "U Thant's vision of 'One World' should inform all our thinking. We must raise our young people to be citizens of 'One World'. We must honor the memory of my predecessor U Thant and the legacy we will leave to future generations". Guests at the luncheon included United Nations ambassadors and dignitaries representing the United Nations, as well as friends and supporters of The U Thant Institute.

Model UN Conference at Fairfield University

Daw Aye Aye Thant welcomed more than 200 students from Connecticut and New York as keynote speaker for a Model UN High School Conference hosted by Fairfield University on November 24. She explained that advancing education and welfare of young people was one of U Thant's priorities throughout his life. During his tenure as the Secretary-General, he often spoke about the importance of education in shaping the character of good Global Citizens -- an important legacy which continues today through Model UN conferences and the U Thant Institute's "Friendship Across Cultures" program.

Photo Exhibition and Symposium in India

U Thant Centennial Celebrations will continue in India. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) led by Nobel Laureate R.K. Pachauri, who is also a Trustee of The U Thant Institute, will collaborate in organizing a Symposium and Photo Exhibition honoring U Thant at the India International Center, New Delhi on February 1. Focus will be on U Thant's visionary concern for the environment.

"For never before has the future been so decisively engendered and molded by present-day decisions. . . May I express the hope that the wisdom of nations inspired by the vision of a world united around the human objectives of peace, justice, and prosperity will soon enrich human life with a renewed respect for the earth resources, and reward us with a hostility-free and weapon-free human environment."

U Thant

*Statement at Opening of
the Preparatory Committee on the Human Environment*

New York, March 9, 1970