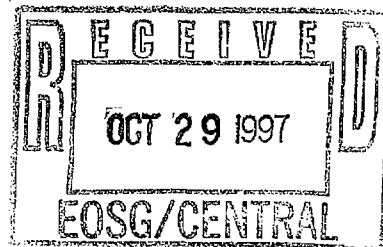


UN Day 97
Italy

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



24 October 1997

Excellency,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your message on the occasion of United Nations Day. Your inspiring words are warmly appreciated and, as requested, I have made the text available to the entire staff on this important day.

Allow me also to thank you for your expression of support for the United Nations. Italy has long been one of the Organization's most reliable and generous contributors and it is a source of great personal satisfaction to know that support will continue.

Your country's dedicated efforts throughout the long process of establishing a permanent international criminal court is proof of Italy's commitment to leadership on matters of priority concern to the international community. That sort of leadership is especially important during this period of renewal of the United Nations and I look forward to working closely with your Government as we strive together to shape this Organization to meet the challenges of the next century.

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

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Dr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro
President of the Republic of Italy
Rome