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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

27 June 1997

Francis
Dear Mr. Deng,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May and your kind words. I am delighted to be working with you on the internally displaced persons project.

We have looked carefully at your draft preface, which is very good. Attached please find a revised version, based on suggestions from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The result is a slightly shorter preface, which suits the Secretary-General. You will note that he has approved it.

Please keep in touch as the project develops — *and let me know what else we can do to help.*

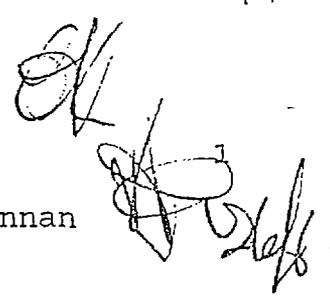
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Yours sincerely,

Shashi

Shashi Tharoor
Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General

Mr. Francis Deng
The Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington D.C. 20036-2188

Draft Preface by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan



Internal displacement has emerged as one of the great human tragedies of our time, one which is confronting the international community with the unprecedented challenge to respond to what is essentially an internal crisis. The severity of the problem, both in intensity and scope, is obvious from the numbers of the displaced, now estimated at between 25 and 30 million, and the fact that virtually no region of the world is spared from this global epidemic. This study by Francis Deng and Roberta Cohen is one of the first in-depth looks at a problem of great concern to the international community.

What is particularly tragic about internal displacement are the physical, social and psychological dangers and indignities to which it exposes innocent people. The usual causes of the most problematic type of displacement are themselves traumatic -- violent conflicts, systematic violations of human rights, forced dislocation, and other man-made and natural disasters in which discrimination on a variety of grounds features conspicuously. Whether the victims are forced into camps, choose to hide away in uncharted territory, or merge into communities which are often equally ravaged, internal displacement nearly always has a devastating effect on families, cultures, jobs, education and the security of a stable society. Above all, it denies access to food, shelter and medicine and exposes innocent people to violence, disappearance and rape. The internally displaced are certainly among the most vulnerable populations in the world and in great need of protection and assistance. Moreover if left unaddressed, internal displacement causes not only internal instability but can also spill across borders affecting external and regional stability. There is therefore a compelling need for the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to meet the assistance and protection requirements of displaced populations.



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FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES PROGRAM

May 23, 1997

Mr. Shashi Tharoor
Office of the United Nations Secretary-General
Room S3802S
One U.N. Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Shashi:

It was wonderful to learn from you that the Secretary-General had entrusted to you the role of coordinating with us in our collaboration on the internally displaced persons project. The Secretary-General certainly moved promptly and he could not have given us a better representative.

This note is to update you on the two issues, a preface by the Secretary-General for our forthcoming book, and the Secretary-General's suggestion for an abridged version to be illustrated with photographs. On the first, we are sending you a draft to assist you in preparing the Secretary-General's preface. We hope that your final draft will reflect the Secretary-General's own concern about internal displacement as a global challenge which the international community and the United Nations specifically must effectively address. We were reluctant to make a strong statement that would pretend to reflect his own views and feelings. What we are offering is basic information on the situation as we know it and what we believe needs to be done. You may conclude that it is too specific or technical to be the thrust of the Secretary-General's preface. Feel absolutely free to use it in any way you and the Secretary-General deem appropriate. To give you a more complete idea of the thrust of our work, we include the Foreward, the Table of Contents and the Introduction.

As for the project of an abridged version, we have identified a potential author, former Ambassador David A. Korn, and are now in the process of finalizing contractual arrangements. We then hope to put Mr. Korn in contact with Sebastio Salgado on the possible use of photographs to illustrate the book.

I also suggested to the Secretary-General the possibility of launching the book(s) at the United Nations, with the exhibition of Salgado's photographs as an accompanying event. Gustave Speth has indicated to me his willingness to contribute some funds in support of such an event. If we are all agreed on the project, I should follow up on his pledge.

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+ edit appi
Thanks

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I know that Roberta Cohen, who is Associate Director of the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement, has been in contact with you and will continue, but please feel free to call me on these or any other matters as you may wish from time to time. I also hope to keep in personal touch.

With warm regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis".

Francis M. Deng

Enclosures