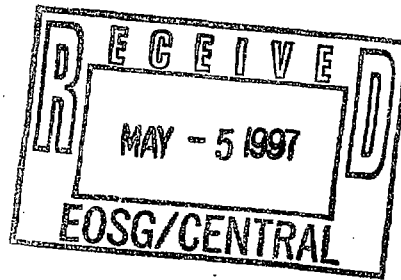




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

*Italy
Italy Trip (4/97)*



29 April 1997

Excellency,

Upon my return to New York following my first official visit to Italy, I should like to express to you my gratitude for taking the time to meet with me in Turin.

The United Nations draws substantially on the very generous support provided to the Organization by Italy in a variety of fields. The prompt, decisive and courageous action taken by Italy in leading the multinational force in Albania is but the latest manifestation of this support. I am convinced that this operation will be a success. Allow me to congratulate the Italian political class for rallying its support to this important endeavour.

The inauguration on 12 April of the United Nations Staff College, which Italy supports in a generous manner, afforded me an opportunity to gain a better grasp of the possibilities offered by Turin. I must say I was impressed by the city's dynamism and beauty. I do not exclude that, as we progress in reforming the United Nations and rationalizing its structures, Turin could become an even more important centre of United Nations activities.

His Excellency
Mr. Gianni Agnelli
Senator
Rome

Finally, I should like to express once again my dismay at the destruction of the Duomo, a tragedy which struck Italy and the world. I am gratified that the Director-General of UNESCO has pledged support and technical assistance towards its reconstruction. I am convinced that the people of Turin will rise to this challenge.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kofi A. Annan