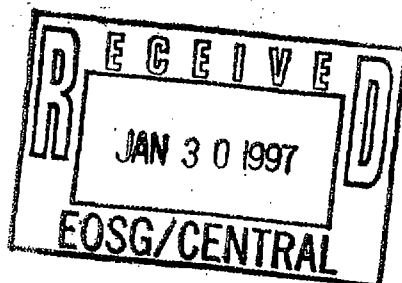




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

SG/Election (J)  
Japan



8 January 1997

Excellency,

I would like to thank you for your kind message and congratulations on my appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am particularly grateful for your warm words of support and encouragement for the essential work of the United Nations. Japan plays an important role here, and I am looking forward to working closely with you in creating a more efficient, effective and responsive world Organization.

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

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Hisashi Owada  
Permanent Representative of Japan  
to the United Nations  
New York