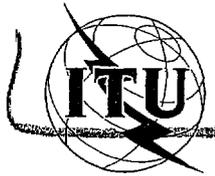


by courier

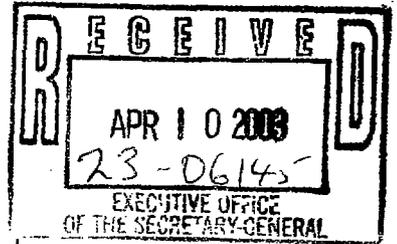
central

# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MM



8 April 2003

Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

Dear Mr. Annan,

First of all, I should like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Birthday.

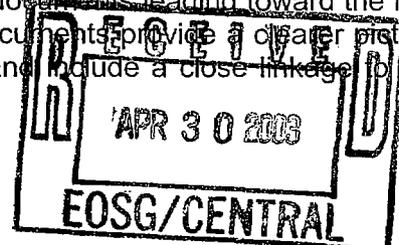
In these difficult times, I know I must not disturb you, but I did want to raise a rather urgent matter concerning the World Summit on the Information Society.

For the most part, Summit preparations are well on course. However, a major concern at this moment is the need to attract the interest of Heads of State to participate at the first phase of the Summit in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003.

Since the Summit is taking place under your high patronage, your official invitation letter has to be sent from New York. These past months, I have been asked repeatedly by many governments when the letter will be sent, since it is a necessary step to secure the agreement of their leaders to attend. The sending of the invitation letter will also launch formal diplomatic efforts, by the host country and others to secure high-level participation.

Beginning last December, there has been considerable discussion in New York on the content of that letter, reflecting different viewpoints at headquarters. However, given the imminent need to secure the schedule of Heads of State, I would respectfully hope that an agreement can be reached shortly, so that the letter can be sent as soon as possible.

On a positive note, I am pleased to report that the substance and expected output of the Summit are becoming more clear. The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee took place in Geneva from 17 to 28 February. There was great interest in this event, which attracted two Heads of State and more than 1600 delegates. I am pleased to indicate that the meeting was able to produce the first draft of the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan and agree on a process to improve and refine these documents leading toward the first phase of the Summit in December 2003. The working documents provide a clearer picture of the key issues that will be addressed by the Summit and include a close linkage of the Millennium Declaration goals.

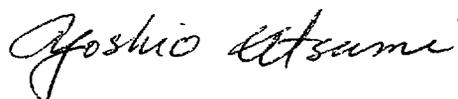


The High-Level Summit Organizing Committee will meet on 24 April 2003 in Paris and I will report to the CEB the following day on the outcome of that discussion.

I would be pleased to personally brief you more fully on the status of the Summit preparations and have asked my staff to arrange a meeting in New York for that purpose in the next few weeks.

As always, your continued support for WSIS is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Yoshio UTSUMI  
Secretary-General  
Chairman, High-Level Summit Organizing Committee

0  
is  
fl  
/