



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Japan
OLA

5 March 1997

Excellency,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for serving as Chairman of the Panel of Experts established to examine the applications by the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Botswana submitted to the Trust Fund to assist States in the settlement of disputes through the International Court of Justice, and for the Report of the Panel on these applications. I greatly appreciate your contribution to the work of the Panel.

You may wish to know that I am in full agreement with the recommendations of the Panel to award both the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Botswana US \$ 250,000 from the Trust Fund. The Governments of these two countries are being informed of that decision. To facilitate the submission by the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Botswana of final statements of account concerning the expenditures made from the approved amount, they will also be provided, as suggested by the Panel, with information and guidance concerning auditing requirements pursuant to the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

Furthermore, pursuant to a recommendation by the Panel, I have instructed the respective Offices of the Secretariat to review the Terms of Reference of the Trust Fund with a view to determining as to how they should be revised to provide more guidance to future panels in assessing the financial needs of requesting States.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kofi A. Annan

H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada
Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations
New York

