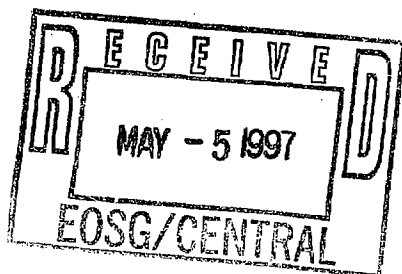


*Italy
Italy Trip (4.97)*



29 April 1997

Excellency,

I should like to express my appreciation, and that of Mrs. Annan and my delegation, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality afforded to us during my first official visit to Italy.

Allow me to thank you for taking the time to meet with me at Palazzo Giustiniani. I was also grateful to have the opportunity to meet with Senator Migone and the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Turin. Both meetings, as well as the other encounters I was privileged to have throughout my visit, reaffirmed my conviction that the United Nations and Italy are engaged in a fundamental partnership.

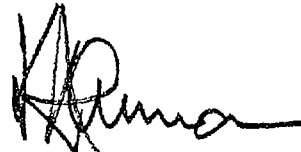
I came to Italy at a moment in which your country was offering proof once again of her leadership capacity, by being at the forefront of the multinational humanitarian force for Albania. I am encouraged that the consensus which I feel exists in the Italian political class when it refers to the United Nations, prevailed in deciding to send the mission to Albania. I am confident that the operation will be a success.

His Excellency
Mr. Nicola Mancino
President of the Senate
of the Republic of Italy
Rome

I am gratified at the existence of this wide consensus, particularly as the Organization undergoes the process of reform. As you pointed out, the United Nations needs to adapt itself to the changes which have occurred in world politics, in particular since the end of the cold war. I fully share your position that reform should be aimed at making of the Organization a more relevant and cohesive instrument, with organs guaranteeing that all States feel fully represented.

Finally, allow me to state that I am looking forward to continuing my close working relations with the Senate. I am convinced that the United Nations, and its Secretary-General, should be as accessible as possible to the representatives of the people of its Member States. After all, the Charter reads "we, the peoples of the United Nations".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kofi A. Annan