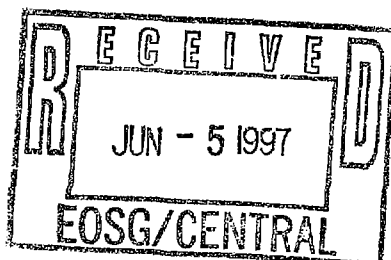




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Excellency,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my profound appreciation for all your efforts to ensure the success of my recent visit to Japan. My wife and I, as well as my delegation, were all impressed by the hospitality accorded to us, by the logistical ease with which our busy programme unfolded and by the wealth of information you were able to impart to us about Japan's current political, economic and social situation.

I was particularly grateful to have an opportunity, so early in my term in office, to establish direct, personal contact with His Excellency Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and His Excellency Yukihiko Ikeda, Minister for Foreign Affairs. My meetings with these estimable leaders were notably open and constructive, reflecting the close ties that exist between Japan and the United Nations, and I left Japan confident in our ability to move forward together on a range of matters of mutual concern.

Japan is a central actor on the world stage. I very much look forward to the contributions Japan will make as the international community continues down the path of United Nations reform and as we move into a new century and new millennium. Thank you once again for all your assistance and hard work, not only during my visit to Japan but also here in New York.

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

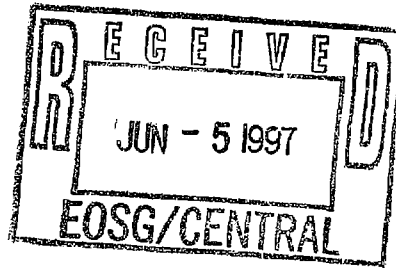
Kofi A. Annan

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

RA/a

Japan
Japan Trip (5/97)

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Your Majesty,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the honour of an audience with Your Majesty and with Her Majesty Empress Michiko during my visit to Japan earlier this month. Mrs. Annan and I consider the conversations we had with Your Majesties to have been a most enriching, and even poetic, experience.

Throughout its more than forty years as a United Nations Member State, Japan has been one of the world Organization's most valuable friends and allies. Your great country is a major provider of development assistance and emergency aid to refugees and other victims of civil strife and natural disaster. Your scientists are responsible for major innovations in the field of environmental protection. Your people are leading proponents of nuclear disarmament.

This sustained record of global engagement merits the admiration of the international community. As we face the challenges of a new century and a new millennium, it is gratifying to know that the United Nations will be able to count on the continued support of the leaders and people of Japan.

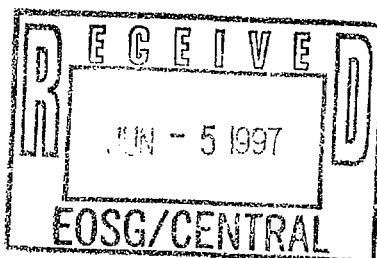
Please accept, Your Majesty, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kofi A. Annan

His Majesty
The Emperor of Japan
Tokyo



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Excellency,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month, as well as for the splendid dinner you so graciously hosted on that occasion. I found it most useful, so early in my term of office, to engage in such constructive talks with you on such a wide range of important matters of mutual concern.

Throughout its more than forty years as a United Nations Member State, Japan has been one of the world Organization's most valuable friends and allies. Your sustained record of achievement and engagement at the global level merits the admiration of the international community. As we face the challenges of a new century and a new millennium, it is gratifying to know that the United Nations will be able to count on the continued support of the leaders and people of Japan. In that spirit, I very much look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

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

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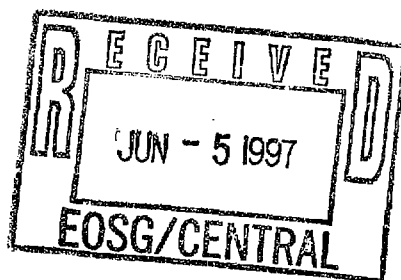
Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto
Prime Minister of Japan
Tokyo

RA/ra



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Excellency,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month, as well as for the dinner you so graciously hosted on that occasion. I found it most useful, so early in my term of office, to engage in such constructive talks with you on such a wide range of important matters of mutual concern. I believe we were able to establish an excellent, open dialogue upon which we can build.

In that spirit, I would like to follow up on some of the points we covered.

First, I wish to stress the seriousness with which I am pursuing the process of reform at the United Nations. As I explained, the primary goal of reform is to strengthen the Organization, and adapt it to a new global era, so that it can better serve the Member States. I was pleased to hear your expression of support for this endeavour since, as a major power, Japan's voice will be enormously influential.

The reform process may well see Japan fulfil its wish of becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. While this is a decision for Member States to take, I have stated publicly my view that the Council's composition needs to be brought into line with today's political and economic realities, as well as my hope that this question can be resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.

His Excellency
Mr. Yukihiko Ikeda
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Tokyo

Second, with respect to the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan's generous assistance in the past two years has greatly helped alleviate suffering in that troubled country. I wish to renew my offer of good offices, should you consider that such a step might be helpful in addressing any difficult or unresolved issues between Japan and the DPRK. I know you share my concern about the potentially explosive nature of the situation.

Third and finally, I want to thank you for your strong ongoing commitment to economic and social development in Africa. Japan's actions in this regard are in the best tradition of international cooperation and solidarity. For my part, I will do my utmost to draw global attention to next year's second Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

Japan is one of the world Organization's most valuable friends and allies. Your country's sustained record of achievement and engagement at the global level merits the admiration of the international community. As we face the challenges of a new century and a new millennium, it is gratifying to know that the United Nations will be able to count on the continued support of leaders such as yourself and of the people of Japan. I very much look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

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

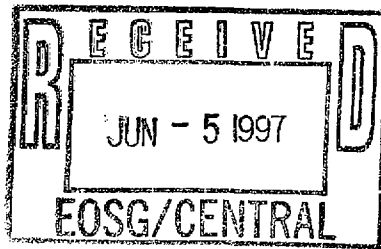
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kofi A. Annan

RA/ra



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



30 May 1997

Dear Ms. Ichikawa,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my appreciation for the beautiful flowers you were so kind to bestow upon my wife and I to welcome us to Japan. It was a most thoughtful gift, and we are truly grateful.

My meetings and engagements in Japan proved yet again that Japan is one of the most valuable friends and allies of the United Nations. The Japanese people have long understood the benefits of international cooperation for the common good, and have been unstinting in their support of the Organization's work. As the United Nations continues to strengthen itself to meet the challenges of a new century and a new millennium, I look forward to continuing this close and most fruitful partnership.

Yours sincerely,

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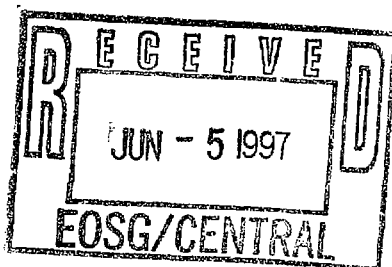
Kofi A. Annan

Ms. Tomiko Ichikawa
Deputy Director
Northeast Asia Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tokyo

RA/ra



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Excellency,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my gratitude for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month. I found it most useful, so early in my term of office, to talk with you about a range of important matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

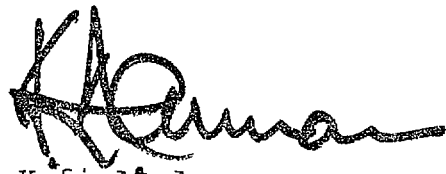
Allow me first of all to congratulate Japan once again on its ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This new international instrument is a momentous act of peace, and I look forward to its rigorous implementation. With respect to another item on the international disarmament agenda -- the question of anti-personnel mines -- I was pleased to hear of the various steps Japan is taking, including an effort to develop new technology that could help avoid casualties among civilians, especially in post-conflict situations. I wish you great success in this endeavour.

Japan is also making an important contribution to United Nations peace-keeping. Your contingent in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force is performing excellent work, and as I said it would be most illuminating for you to visit the Golan Heights. More generally, I am glad to know that Japan intends to continue playing a role in international peace-keeping, building on its fine record of achievement in Cambodia and Mozambique.

His Excellency
Mr. Fumio Kyuma
Minister of State
Defence Agency
Tokyo

In these and other areas, I look forward to working with you as the United Nations continues to enhance its ability to promote international peace and security. Thank you once again for your strong commitment in this vital undertaking.

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

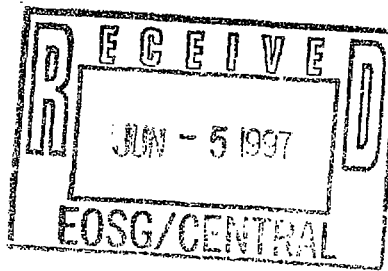
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Kofi A. Annan

Raj/ra



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



28 May 1997

Dear Mr. Ito,

Upon my return to New York, I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month. I attach great importance to enhancing ties between the United Nations and parliamentarians, who are increasingly prominent players on the international scene. You serve as essential links between the world Organization and the world public, building understanding and support for United Nations goals and activities. And as representative bodies, you are fostering democratization not only at the national level but, just as importantly, among States.

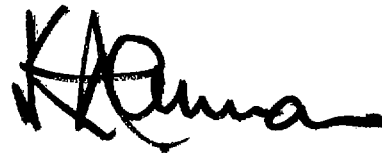
As we discussed, the United Nations is at a crossroads. Accordingly, I am pursuing with utmost seriousness a comprehensive effort aimed at reshaping and revitalizing the Organization so that it can better meet the complex challenges of today and of the new millennium.

Based on my meetings with you and your colleagues in the Diet, as well as with other Japanese officials, I am confident that Japan will bring to the reform process the same strong commitment to international cooperation that it has displayed in more than forty years as a United Nations Member State.

Mr. Soichiro Ito
Speaker
House of Representatives
Tokyo

Japan is a leading proponent of nuclear disarmament. It is an innovator in environmental protection and a major provider of development assistance and emergency aid to refugees and other victims of civil strife and natural disaster. Its troops participate in United Nations peace-keeping. This sustained record of global engagement merits the recognition and gratitude of the international community. In anticipation of greater achievements still to come, I very much look forward to continuing our dialogue in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

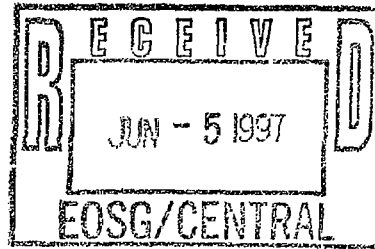
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kofi A. Annan

RA/m



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Dear Mr. Saito,

Upon my return to New York, I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month. I attach great importance to enhancing ties between the United Nations and parliamentarians, who are increasingly prominent players on the international scene. You serve as essential links between the world Organization and the world public, building understanding and support for United Nations goals and activities. And as representative bodies, you are fostering democratization not only at the national level but, just as importantly, among States.

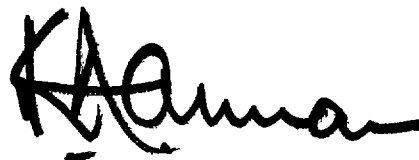
During our discussion you noted that since the end of the Cold War, the United Nations was making every effort to regain the role envisaged by the Organization's founders. As you know, I am pursuing with utmost seriousness a comprehensive effort aimed at reshaping and revitalizing the United Nations. The goal of reform is to strengthen the Organization so that it may better serve the Member States in meeting the challenges of a new global era.

Some of the reform issues you raised during our discussion are decisions for the Member States to take. I am thinking in particular of Security Council reform and the elimination of the "enemy clauses" from the United Nations Charter. But on matters that fall within my authority -- such as managerial and administrative measures to boost efficiency, improve coordination and eliminate overlap -- I am working actively to put real changes in place.

Mr. Juro Saito
President
House of Councillors
Tokyo

I was pleased to learn of your support for the reform effort, which I believe holds great promise for the people of Japan and for the world public in general. Such support is yet another manifestation of Japan's commitment to international cooperation, which Japan has displayed throughout its more than forty years as a United Nations Member State. I believe there is much more for us to accomplish, and in that spirit I look forward to continuing our dialogue in the years to come.

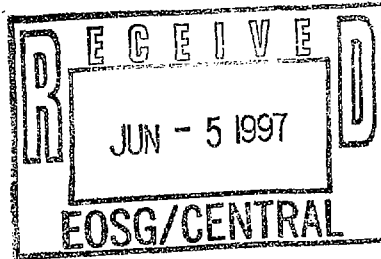
Yours sincerely,

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Kofi A. Annan



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



29 May 1997

Dear Governor Aoshima,

Upon my return to New York, I am writing to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you during my visit to Japan earlier this month.

I attach great importance to maintaining close ties with leaders of the world's major cities. In an increasingly urbanized world, cities are where solutions to problems such as unemployment and environmental degradation are being worked out. I was particularly pleased to learn that you attended last year's "City Summit" in Istanbul, and that the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo intends to hold a meeting next year on improving cooperation among the world's cities. The United Nations will continue to help you with this important initiative, and I shall revert to you in due course with respect to your kind invitation to attend the meeting and deliver an address.

Finally, let me add that I am also familiar with the annual peace day ceremonies organized by the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo. As I said in my message to the most recent such commemoration, held this past March, the United Nations shares Tokyo's commitment to world peace and its total abhorrence of war. Let us continue our work towards the goal of lasting world peace in all its dimensions.

Thank you once again for your strong expression of support for the world Organization. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Yukio Aoshima
Governor
Metropolitan Tokyo
Tokyo