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Youth
Intl. Day of Peace

POSTAL ADDRESS — ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, NY 10017
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

REFERENCE/RÉFÉRENCE :

17 September 2007

Dear Mr. Cowley,

Further to Mr. Yoon's letter to you of 2 July 2007 I am pleased to send you the Secretary-General's message to the Youth Peace Parliament on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, along with our best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meyer".

Michael Meyer
Director of Communications

Mr. Richard Cowley
Convenor
International Day of Peace Alliance
Newmarket

27-07705

UNITED NATIONS



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Youth
Intl. Day of Peace

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH PEACE PARLIAMENT
ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
Brisbane, 24 September 2007

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to all the young members of the Youth Peace Parliament.

Peace is the UN's highest calling. It defines our mission. It drives our discourse. It draws together all of our world wide work, from peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy to development and human rights.

This work for peace is a constant work in progress. And in countless communities across the world, peace remains an elusive goal. From the displaced person camps of Chad and Darfur to the byways of Baghdad, the quest for peace is strewn with setbacks and suffering.

The International Day of Peace – 21 September – which you are marking with this special Youth Parliament, is an annual occasion to take stock of our efforts to promote peace and well-being for all people everywhere.

It is an opportunity to appreciate what we have already accomplished, and to dedicate ourselves to all that remains to be done.

It is also meant to be a day of global cease-fire: a twenty-four hour respite from the fear and insecurity that plague so many places. That is why the United Nations calls upon people around the world to observe a minute of silence at noon on this day each year.

And we urge all countries and all combatants to honour a cessation of hostilities. This pause is an opportunity to ponder the high price that we all pay because of conflict. And it is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to making this temporary cease-fire permanent.

This year, let us promise to make peace not just our priority, but our passion. Let us pledge to do more, wherever we are in whatever way we can, to make every day a day of peace.

In that spirit, I wish you a most successful gathering.



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

2 July 2007

Dear Mr. Cowley,

I wish to refer to your invitation dated 11 June 2007 for the Secretary-General to attend the introductory dinner to the Youth Peace Parliament (YPP), to be held on 21 September 2007; or if not, to participate in the YPP itself, scheduled to take place from 24 to 26 September 2007.

In that connection, further to my reply of 28 June 2007 to you, I am pleased to inform you that the Youth Peace Parliament will receive a message from the Secretary-General. Please receive our best wishes of success.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yoon'.

Yeocheol Yoon
Special Assistant
Chief, Scheduling Office

Mr. Richard Cowley
Convenor
International Day of Peace Alliance
Newmarket

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CABLE ADDRESS - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

28 June 2007

Dear Mr. Cowley,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 11 June 2007, inviting the Secretary-General to attend the introductory dinner to the Youth Peace Parliament (YPP), to be held on 21 September 2007; if not, to participate in the YPP itself, scheduled to take place from 24 to 26 June 2007 in Brisbane.

On his behalf, I would like to thank you for your kind invitation. The Secretary-General noted with interest the Youth Peace Parliament initiative, and its role of advocacy for the cause of peace. However, I regret to inform you that, owing to his heavy schedule, he will be unable to attend. Nevertheless, let me seize this opportunity to convey his best wishes for successful events.

With thanks for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yoon'.

Yeocheol Yoon
Special Assistant
Chief, Scheduling Office

Mr. Richard Cowley
Convenor
International Day of Peace Alliance
Newmarket



International Day of Peace Alliance

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Monday, June 11 2007

SENT BY FAX to 212 963 4879

Three pages total

Hello

I just spoke with the general enquires team, who have asked me to put my request in writing.

As discussed, I am making preliminary enquires on behalf of the International Day of Peace Alliance about the availability of the UN Secretary General to participate in a video broadcast to Brisbane, Australia, on the occasion of the UN decreed International Day of Peace (IDP), September 21. Our Alliance would raise sponsorship to cover costs. We are hoping to use the video link as a means of raising awareness of the IDP, pursuant to the second part of resolution 55/282 which 'asks {NGOs, States & Individuals} to help raise awareness of the day, including through education and public awareness...'.
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Although we expect to have in excess of 20 events in Brisbane (16 last year) to mark the IDP this year, primarily a Youth Peace Parliament (YPP) will be held, with 89 students from across Queensland provided with an opportunity to debate Peace-orientated topics in our State Parliament House. An inaugural Youth Peace Parliament was held last year with enormous success. I have attached the resolution unanimously passed at that Parliament.

The 2007 YPP will be held from Monday to Wednesday, September 24 to 26. If the Secretary General is available, and if we can organise sponsorship to cover the costs of this exercise, (there shouldn't be a problem) it is intended to hold a formal dinner on Friday night (21 Sept.), as a means of commemorating the day and an introduction to the YPP. All members of Queensland's State Parliament would be invited, along with Senators and Federal Members. It would be a huge event, and we would leverage off it to raise awareness of the IDP across Australia.

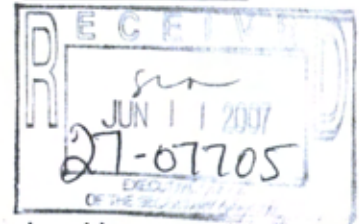
If the Secretary General is not available on September 21, perhaps he would be available during the actual parliament, which is from September 24 to 26.

I look forward to receiving a positive response.

In Peace


Richard Cowley
Convenor ~ International Day of Peace Alliance

ACTION Y/C
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Page 1 of 3

Motion Passed by the Inaugural Australian Youth Peace Parliament, Queensland Parliament House, September 22, 2006.

This house declares that -

1. We, the Youth Peace Parliamentarians, participating in the First IDPA Youth Peace Parliament,
2. Gathered here in Queensland in September 2006, the year of the 61st anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,
3. Determined to advance the achievement of peace in international and national domains throughout the world; in every community and individual in the interest of all humanity,
4. Affirm the principles in resolution 55/282 of the 11 September 2001 and commits its members to supporting this mandate for peace, in which the General Assembly decided that the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence in honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day,
5. Recalling also resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000 and Resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981,
6. Recognise that youth empowerment and full participation of youths in all social, cultural, economic, civil and political spheres, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, is fundamental for the achievement of peace,
7. Dedicate our efforts to the promotion of conflict prevention and resolution, and fostering greater understanding of the consequence of war to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace,
8. Recognise that peace is not solely the absence of conflict and violence, but that ensuring equality, security, self determination, development, understanding, diplomacy and the rights and dignity of every person are also imperatives to the cohesive framework of sustainable peace, the ultimate in human aspirations.

We are convinced that:

9. Education and training equips individuals in developing communities with skills that empower them to generate their own wealth and enable them to exercise the rights, and engage in activities related to self determination. Providing education is the most appropriate action for eliminating extreme poverty in the Asian Pacific region, strengthening regional stability and encouraging sustainable peace.

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We acknowledge that:

10. The Australian government and its people have a responsibility to protect the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers who come to Australia to the extent that upon arrival they are to be supported in a manner consistent with the human rights as proclaimed in the *UDHR (1948)* in addition to rights proclaimed in the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)* until their status is duly assessed against the convention's principles.

We recognise that:

11. Small arms encourage belligerence, they are most damaging weapons instrument in enabling violence in the international domain; controlling their production and proliferation, and disabling existing weapons is the most effective means of controlling arms, reducing violence and conflict and restoring peace in the world.

We are convinced that:

12. Disharmony between nations and some communities to can be attributed to a lack of inner peace within their citizens; an absence that disenables peace to emanate into society and manifest in other forms. The most effective way for engendering a culture of peace is to promote values of self acceptance, respect and worth towards oneself and others in celebration and recognition each other's humanity.