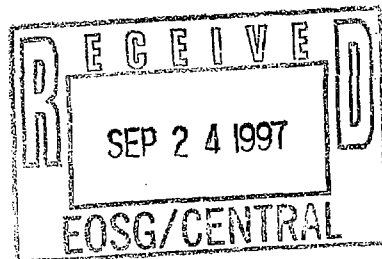




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

*Japan  
Congrats*



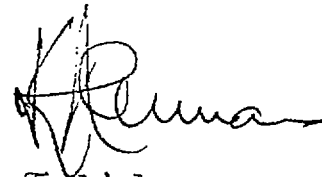
18 September 1997

Excellency,

I should like to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your re-election as President of the Liberal Democratic Party and your continuing leadership as Prime Minister of Japan.

As I conveyed to you and senior members of your Government during my visit to Japan in May, I consider it of great importance for us to actively foster the constructive dialogue and cooperation that exist at all levels between Japan and the United Nations in order to meet the challenges facing the international community in the years ahead. In that connection, allow me to express my sincere appreciation for your consistent leadership and support in addressing the many issues on the agenda of the United Nations, including reform of the Organization.

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

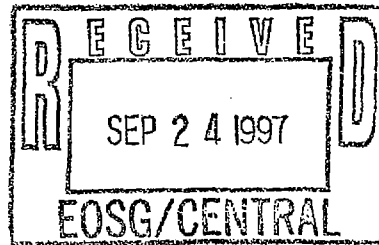


Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto  
Prime Minister of Japan  
Tokyo



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Japan  
Congrats

18 September 1997

Excellency,

May I offer my warm congratulations to you on the occasion of your appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Japan has consistently been a prominent and dynamic member of the United Nations. As a leading partner of the Organization, Japan's participation in its multifaceted activities remain essential in the United Nations' efforts to resolve the wide range of global problems confronting Member States. I look forward to welcoming you in New York and to have the opportunity of discussing with you various issues of mutual concern, including our common goal of making the United Nations a more efficient and effective instrument to fulfil the mandates entrusted to it by Member States as well as by the Charter.

I should like to take this opportunity to convey through you my deepest gratitude to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Yukihiro Ikeda, for his invaluable cooperation with the United Nations during his term of office.

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

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Keizo Obuchi  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
Tokyo

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

18 September 1997

REFERENCE:

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letters to His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister of Japan, and His Excellency Mr. Keizo Obuchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Copies of the letters are attached for your information.

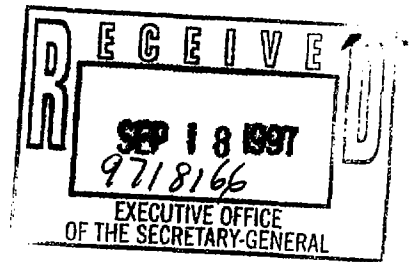
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shashi Tharoor'.

Shashi Tharoor  
Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-General

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

ST



Note to Mr. Riza

**JAPAN**

On 11 September 1997, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto was formally re-elected for a second two-year term as President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by a full session of LDP members of both houses of the Diet, the national parliament; he therefore continues as Prime Minister of Japan. Later the same day, he announced a reshuffle of his cabinet, including the appointment of Mr. Keizo Obuchi as the new Minister for Foreign Affairs. While not known for having much experience in foreign affairs, Mr. Obuchi is one of the political "heavyweights" of the ruling party, leading its largest faction, and is believed to have an eye on the post of prime minister in the future.

In addition to the customary congratulatory letter from the Secretary-General to the new Foreign Minister, we propose that a similar letter also be sent to the Prime Minister. Accordingly, please find these two letters for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, as well as a forwarding letter to the Permanent Representative of Japan for your signature.

Alvaro de Soto  
18 September 1997

cc: Mr. Prendergast  
Mr. Fall  
Mr. Vendrell