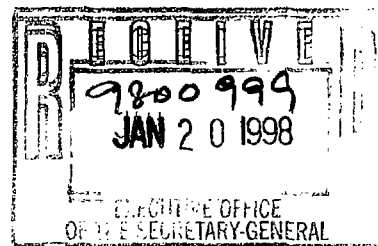


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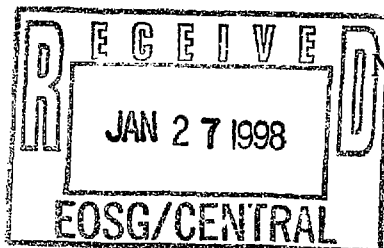
Fr: M. Ighal Rize

SIR

Diego Arria



HE Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
New York City



New York, January 20th, 1998

Sent to SF;
(compared)
R201

Dear Secretary General:

as per our conversation I am enclosing a note that I hope will be useful to illustrate the initiative to promote the creation of a sort of a Group of friends of the Secretary General who would serve pro bono on tasks assigned to them by you , and who would be chosen from all over the world on a very selective basis.

I am very grateful and encouraged by your reaction to this idea which I have entertained only since you became Secretary General , knowing that because of your personality it would be very easy to attract outstanding people to cooperate with you. Well, even before a year had transpired since you were elected, you already had a volunteer contributing one billion dollars!

I hope that 1998 will allow you to continue in the path which you have set for the agenda of the United Nations, and that this initiative and others which you will generate will be helpful for your mandate, to which so many of your friends feel committed.

Very respectfully yours,

DA

980146

Notes on the creation of a Group of high level individuals world wide, to participate- ad honorem- in missions or projects entrusted to them by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The Mission

To lend the prestige, knowledge and credibility of independent individuals to specific short term missions or tasks of significant importance to the Secretary General. This has already been tried successfully on a few occasions-the latest : James Baker on the Western Sahara issue. On a more permanent basis Maurice Strong-undoubtedly- is the paradigm of a volunteer of the UN system. UNICEF also has an interesting approach with its appointment of special Ambassadors.

The UN Secretariat maintains a file of personalities that serves as a pool of resources for its missions. This has been useful even though the file- is limited to diplomatic officials who are recruited and paid by the UN.

The profile of the Individuals

Firstly they would be invited by the Secretary General to join **The Group** (name to be found) on a pro bono basis (at least his or hers remuneration).

The members of The Group would be recruited from sources outside the traditional diplomatic ones inasmuch as the missions would not only be for essentially diplomatic ones, but would include the whole range of UN activities : social and economic development, refugees, environment and drug issues, human rights, etc. Peace keeping and Peace building. Conflict prevention and resolution. Advising the SG on its relations with the World Bank, the IMF the IDB, the regional organizations (Organization of American States, Organization of African States, etc)

Probably the common characteristic of the members of The Group, would be that they all are in the private sector which would allow them complete independence to carry out their assigned functions. Bankers, industrialists, business people , intellectuals, artists, media, academic, former government officials, politicians, etc.

The members of The Group on a SG mission (always a minimum of two) would be accompanied by UN officials who would provide the necessary background information and institutional support. This would also ensure that the UN Secretariat is well informed of any developments on the issues at hand.

Why would people be willing to serve ?

There are many outstanding and successful people all over the world that would gladly serve on The Group, and that would consider it, both a privilege and an honor.

As directed by the SG, The Group would participate in initiatives of significance to world peace and development. Furthermore they would be recognized by the international community as a very special NGO-much needed in present times when solidarity is of vital importance to most of the UN tasks and challenges.

It would also be a significant step forward in the incorporation of civil society in the active process of developing international policy, and support there of, which multinational entities find so difficult to incorporate due to Government's traditional prejudices on this topic.

How to choose , and incorporate The Group Members ?

If this idea has merit (at least to be tried as an experiment to see if it works), the SG would invite a selected number of people to draft the guidelines for this effort.

The headquarters for the initial Group invited by the SG would be in the New York. The expenses of managing The Group would be funded privately.

The first group to be recruited would hold a meeting in New York under the sponsorship of the Secretary General, in the Spring of 1998 .

By challenging The Group with important tasks, it could be expected that they would become active and vocal supporters (perhaps even assist in fund raising), of the UN in their respective countries, broadening an increasing influential constituency for the UN.

Membership in The Group should be a special honor . A unique club of men and women dedicated to humanity's best causes, where talent, and dedication, and the desire to serve would be the major qualifications.