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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

7 May 2007

Dear Ms. Brady,

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2007 inviting the Secretary-General to provide a message for the twentieth annual "Celebration of Youth" essay contest.

While the Secretary-General acknowledges the importance of this contest, I am afraid that the he will be unable to meet your request.

Allow me to offer my warmest wishes to a successful celebration and to thank you for your interest in the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,

Annika Savill
Officer in Charge
Speechwriting Unit

Ms. Dorothea Ann Brady
Global Harmony through Personal Excellence, Inc.
3925 Livingston Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015-2921

Telephone: +1 212 963 4092 Fax: +1 212 963 5965
Email: ferascu@un.org

27-05733

The Twentieth Annual Celebration of Youth Essay Contest

is proudly sponsored by

GLOBAL HARMONY THROUGH PERSONAL EXCELLENCE, INC.

3925 Livingston Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20015-2921
Telephone: (202) 244-1682 Fax: (202) 364-3950 Personal Email: jeb79921@aol.com
www.globalharmonythroughpersonalexcellence.org

TO: SG Ban Ki-Moon

FROM: Dorothea Ann Brady

DATE: April 18, 2007

I thank you so much for your attention and every consideration of this request. In years past we have worked with UN staff members to have this request fulfilled. (Mr. Mortimer, Roxandra, and several other amazingly wonderful individuals.)

Thank you for the important work you do for people everywhere. Thank heavens for you and all the brave and wise people who work at the UN. Your work is noble and vital.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Faxed with this cover page is:

2 page letter to His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
5 pages of past congratulatory notes from others - to use as samples

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April 17, 2007

AS

RECEIVED
Sean Letter
APR 19 2007
27-05733
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General
United Nations
New York, New York 10017
Fax: 212 963-4879

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon,

Thank you for your service to our world. Your guiding vision for peace is dear to people all over the earth. I respect you, and I am rooting for your wisdom to prevail.

Sir, I know you and your staff are very busy, and I know you get asked to do many things. I am hoping that what I am asking will be easy and uplifting. I am writing to ask if you would write a note of congratulations to 40 students in the DC public school system who will be winners and honorable mentions in an essay contest. I am asking for one short note to 40 children who are being celebrated on the morning of May 22. I would make copies of your letter on quality paper so that each student could have a copy. The note can be brief and simple. It might be a favorite quote or it might say "Congratulations, Keep up the good work." Whatever you might be able to do would be so very appreciated. As Secretary General of the United Nations, you are respected and a significant model of goodness and peace. I am faxing examples of what others have done. You would be in a distinguished group which includes SG Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Tutu, Oprah, Colin Powell, Tiger Woods, and others.

The children are being honored in downtown Washington, D.C. on May 22. Our print deadline is Friday, May 18. If time becomes a factor, a fax is fine, though an unfold letter in dark ink makes the best copies.

The "Celebration of Youth" essay contest is open to all DC public school students in 4th through 9th grades. The contest is sponsored by Global Harmony Through Personal Excellence, Inc. This nonprofit organization in the District of Columbia is run completely by volunteer efforts.

The theme this year is about how our attitude and actions make a difference and can either contribute to the goodness in the world or take away from it. This is our 20th year. We have received 350 essays from schools across the city. Each year the theme is different, and we try to choose a theme which encourages the children to look within and share their thoughts and feelings about their life experiences.

Determining judges will include Derrick McGinty this year. Past judges have included: Maureen Bunyan, Gwen Ifill, Colbert King, Kojo Nnamdi, Nina Totenberg, Jim Vance, and Juan Williams. *The Washington Post, Washington Times, The Wall Street Journal,* and local television have done stories on the children and their essays over the years. Every year we try to invite new judges from the worlds of media, academia, and literature. We want more and more people to learn about the talents and the lives of children in D.C. The contest has growing support and recognition. Al and Tipper Gore have given money, resources, and advice. In 1992, a member of our Board of Directors was made a point of light by George Bush, Sr.

The children are inspiring and brave. Our goal is to have the voices and needs of children heard far and wide. We hope to put together a book of some of the essays from the last twenty years. All profits from the book would go to increasing the prize fund and to establishing scholarships for graduating seniors who continue their education. This would initiate a cycle of one child's success contributing to another child's opportunity. We also are determined to conduct international contests, including South Africa, England, Ireland, China, and the Middle East.

Written congratulatory remarks from prominent individuals are a highlight in honoring the childrens' achievements on May 22. Teachers and mothers have shared that the children proudly show the comments to their peers at school the next day. Please know that we would be proud to be able to read comments from you at the ceremony. The children are the key note speakers, and they read their prize winning essays.

If you need any more information about the contest or our organization, please check out our website at the address listed above or give me a call at (202) 244-1682. I will support your staff in every way I can. In the past we have worked with Edward Mortimer, Roxandra, and others. Everyone has been magnificence.

I anticipate hearing from you. In the meantime, please know how much I appreciate your enormous contribution to our precious world. May God keep you in his protection and embrace at all times. God bless you always in all ways.

With respect, thanksgiving, and anticipation,

Dorothea Ann Brady

Dorothea Ann Brady
Enclosed: Copies of past year's congratulatory remarks from others

NELSON MANDELA

9 May 2001

The Fourteenth Annual Celebration of Youth Essay Contest

Dear Student

Congratulations! It gives me immense pleasure to learn that you won the essay competition. You are the presidents, scientists, business leaders and fashion designers etc of our present and future. My vision is that all children should be educated, which will empower them to make a positive difference in bringing about peace, unity and justice worldwide.

Keep up the excellent work and hopefully I will hear more about you in the future.

Yours sincerely

NRMandela

N R MANDELA

The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, O.M.S.G. D.D F.K.C.
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

Suite 44, Frazzitto Business Park, cnr Freedom Way & Koeberg Road, Milnerton, Cape Town 7435
PO Box 1092, Milnerton 7441
Tel: (+27) 021 552 7524
Fax: (+27) 021 552 7529
E-mail: mpilo@iafrica.com

17 May 2004
Fax 091 202 364 3950

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

Greetings,

and my very warm congratulations to the winners of the 2004 Celebration of Youth Essay Contest and to those who received honourable mentions I have read several of the essays submitted to this year's competition and I can only say that there is a very bright future for our youth.

You look forward to a world that cares, that shares, a world where everyone is included there are no outsiders, everyone is an insider This is the world that God dreams of too. A world of laughter, love and peace – I have confidence that all of you will be helping God to realise this dream

God bless you

+Desmond M Tutu Archbishop Emeritus

WAKE FOREST

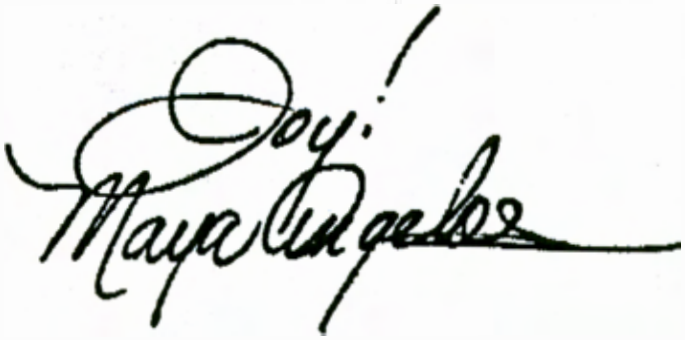
Z. Smith Reynolds Professor
of American Studies

Message on the Occasion of The Seventeenth Annual
"CELERATION OF YOUTH" Essay Contest
Washington, D.C., May 18, 2004

Dear Victorious One:

Everyone is proud of you!

I join your family, teachers and mentors in wishing you joy.



Maya Angelou

Sample

A Special Message to the Students Participating in the Celebration of Youth Essay Contest from General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)

I am pleased to again salute those of you participating in this challenging essay contest. Just like learning to dribble is essential to playing basketball, learning to write, and write well, is essential to success in our modern world.

I am sure that you found writing your essays to be both fun and a bit demanding. The questions you answered are the same ones that all successful people have to answer in their lives. They are designed to help you think about those qualities that we prize and look for in our Nation's leaders: what are my abilities; what else do I need to learn; how can I help; and what are my goals, among others.

In successfully wrestling with the question of what it is like to live in today's world, each of you has learned, and demonstrated to your friends, that personal success doesn't happen by accident. It requires a true purpose and a decision to do whatever work is needed to turn your goals into reality. I congratulate each of you for your success!

My advice for you is to enjoy your time in school – learn everything you can. Study hard, continue to set your goals high and make your education one of your very highest priorities.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL "CELEBRATION OF YOUTH" ESSAY CONTEST

Washington, D.C., 22 May 2003

I am delighted to send my congratulations to you for your fine work in the "Celebration of Youth" essay contest. Young people like you -- with open minds and open hearts -- are humankind's most precious asset. It is your hope and energy, your enthusiasm and willingness to express yourself, that make society move forward. I am glad that you are starting already to think about what kind of world you want this to be.

The work for a better, more peaceful world begins with every one of us. I hope that every day, you will keep picturing the world as you would wish it to be, and work to make that dream a reality. And I hope that you will work to make peace take hold, day by day, year by year, until every day is a day of peace. Please think of the United Nations as your friend and ally in that mission.

Kofi A. Annan