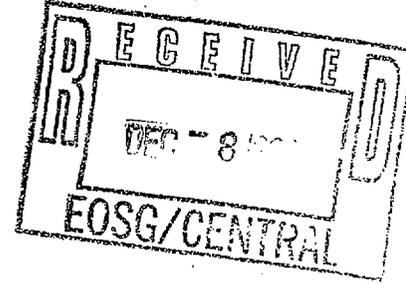




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

*Burundi
South Commission*

8 December 1998



Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 16 November in which you apprised me of developments in the Arusha peace process on Burundi. I should also like to convey to you once again my respect and admiration for the able manner in which you have guided the work of the three rounds of the peace negotiations so far.

I am encouraged by your favourable assessment of the results of the third round of the process and for your views on future prospects. I am also particularly pleased by the manner in which the Burundian parties have embarked on the work of the two Committees which constitute a crucial aspect of the negotiations.

This letter also gives me the opportunity to congratulate you on the establishment of a long-term Peace Plan and budget for the talks and I hope that the donor community will now be encouraged to contribute even more generously to the financing of the peace process to its logical conclusion. I will continue to urge them to do so.

I have taken note of your request, which Ambassador Mwakawago delivered to the Deputy Secretary-General on 9 November and to me personally on 24 November, and which you also conveyed in your letter of 16 November, for continued United Nations technical assistance to the peace process. I wish to assure you that the United Nations remains determined to be helpful and to continue to participate in support of the peace process. I have, therefore, instructed that your request be looked into by the appropriate Secretariat bodies with a view to determining how best the United Nations can be of assistance.

His Excellency
Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere
Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process
Dar-es-Salaam

May I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your response to my letter of 13 October regarding the sanctions on Burundi. I have been encouraged by the public commitment made by the Government of Burundi to the Arusha peace process following the conclusion of the third round and I will continue to rely on your good judgement as to the appropriate moment to approach the regional leaders on the matter. I strongly believe, as I have said before, that there is an urgent need to relieve the heavy economic and humanitarian burden the people of Burundi now have to bear. I also believe in encouraging the Government and other participants in the peace process to stay the course and I look forward to an opportunity to discuss the Burundi situation again with you in greater depth.

With my best wishes for continued success in your mediation efforts, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

Kōfi A. Annan

THE MWALIMU NYERERE FOUNDATION II

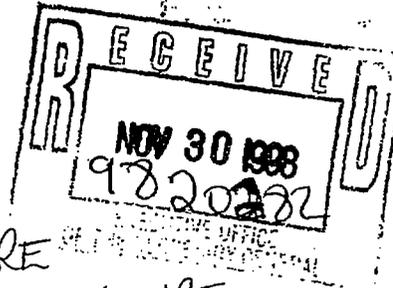
6 SOKOINE DRIVE
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 255-51-118354
 FAX: 255-51-119216



OFFICE OF THE FACILITATOR
 PEACE INITIATIVE
 GREAT LAKES REGION
 (BURUNDI)

Mr. Friedberg
 cc - SKR
 GJ
 16 November 1998

DPA/OSG
 TANZANIA
 Rec'd 30 NOV
 Log#
 ACTION
 → YM = PLEASE PREPARE
 A REPLY FOR SCS SIGNATURE
 AND RETURN TO OSG
 BY NOON, FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER. cc = KP/AG; IF; file



H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan,
 United Nations Secretary General,
 UN Headquarters,
NEW YORK.

Dear Mr. Secretary General

As you know the current phase of the Burundi Peace Negotiations has been going on for the last six months during which three rounds have been held in Arusha. They started rather slowly in June 1998 - which was not unexpected considering the two-year stalemate preceding Arusha I - but have since made encouraging progress. The results of Arusha III, 12-23 October 1998, have been particularly encouraging. The Burundi were able to agree, not only on outstanding procedural and organisational matters relating to the process as a whole, but were also able to embark on the work of Committees I and II. The groundwork has thus been done for substantive work to commence. Unless something unexpected happens I expect steady progress to be made by Committees I, II and III dealing respectively with the "Nature of the Conflict", "Democracy and Good Governance" and "Peace and Security for All" when they meet to discuss their agendas. I must stress that I am talking about progress, not on substantive issues, but in procedural and organisational areas. I expect some progress in this area in the forthcoming meetings of the Committees planned for early December and, of course, in the resumed Plenary meetings planned for January 1999 and beyond.

We have also made good progress in our planning efforts. You will be pleased to know that a Peace Plan that sets out the programme for the negotiations with a definite time-limit has been produced. I enclose a copy for you from which

you will see that an attempt has also been made to cost it. As you will see we foresee three more plenary sessions in January, April and June 1999, with Committee meetings in between to conclude the peace process. To cater for any unforeseen development provision has also been made for a final and ceremonial plenary session in August 1999.

I have two reasons for writing to you today. The first is to brief you on the progress made in the negotiations and to thank the United Nations for its contribution to the process. In particular I would like to thank you for the technical support you were able to provide for Arusha III which contributed in no small measure to the success of the session. I am using this opportunity to express the hope that this support will continue to be made available for the forthcoming meetings as projected in the Peace Plan.

The second is to respond to your letter delivered to me during Arusha III, by Ambassador Berhanu Dinka, your Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in the Great Lakes Region. I appreciate your concern about the continuation of the sanctions against Burundi. I need hardly assure you that I have been doing all I can to encourage the creation of a conducive climate for their review by the authorities of the Region at the earliest possible opportunity. As Ambassador Dinka will have reported to you my expectation was that Arusha III would have created such an atmosphere. But as I have indicated before progress was made only on procedural and organisational matters. Nonetheless if those concerned demonstrate the necessary political will and the international community shows the necessary understanding and support, I believe the foundation has now been laid for progress to be made on substantive issues in the negotiations scheduled for early December 1998 and January 1999, which will create the climate for the sanctions to be reviewed.

Let me close by repeating my sincere appreciation to the United Nations and to you personally for the cooperation and support which my efforts have enjoyed and continue to enjoy from the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,


Julius K. Nyerere