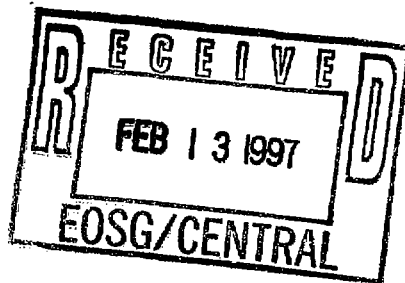




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Japan



10 February 1997

Excellency,

I should like to thank you for your letter of 30 January in which you conveyed the support of the Government of Japan for the appointment of Ambassador Sahnoun as Joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

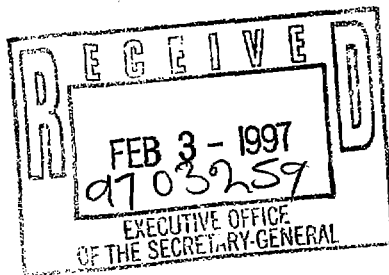
Ambassador Sahnoun is already in the Region. I will keep Member States regularly informed of his progress in his mission to help achieve a lasting and peaceful solution for the Region.

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



Kofi A. Annan

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



SIR

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

30 January 1997

Excellency,

I should like to convey to you the support of the Government of Japan on the appointment of Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun as Joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, which was expressed through a statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General for Press and Public Relations of the Foreign Ministry of Japan on January 28, 1997. A copy of the statement is attached for your reference.

I am confident that Special Representative Sahnoun will make a genuine and active contribution to the international endeavour to find a peaceful solution to the problems in the Great Lakes region.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hisashi Owada
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Japan to the United Nations

H. E. Mr. Koffi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations, Room S-3800
New York, N. Y. 10017

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S-G OFFICE

#18 11 Feb

Statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General
for Press and Public Relations of the Foreign
Ministry on the Appointment of Ambassador Mohammed
Sahnoun as Joint United Nations/Organization of
African Unity Special Representative for the Great
Lakes Region of Africa

1. The Government of Japan welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun from Algeria, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, as the Joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity (OAU) Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Japan strongly hopes that Ambassador Sahnoun will play a positive role in making a peaceful solution to various problems in the region, where the situation is feared to be worsening.
2. Ambassador Sahnoun was appointed by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on January 27 New York time (Japan time: 28). Ambassador Sahnoun will be permanently stationed in Nairobi, Kenya, and carry out his duties including mediation for the political solution of problems in the Great Lakes region, preparation for international conferences, and assistance for the election process.
3. In cooperation with Ambassador Sahnoun, Japan urges the people concerned in the Great Lakes region to avoid further humanitarian tragedy and make every possible effort to recover the stability of the region. Japan will continue to participate in the international efforts as well as to support the regional initiative toward the solution of the problems in the Great Lakes region, and will take measures such as making its own opportunities for continued appeal to the people concerned.

(END)