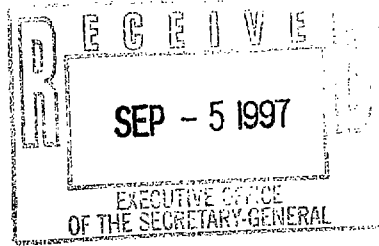
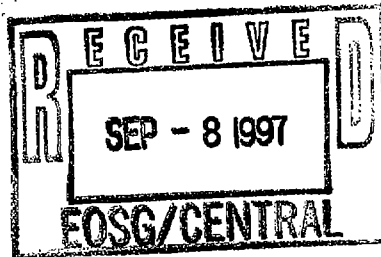


Japan *Central-*

SC/97/387



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



6 September 1997

Dear Mr. Riza,

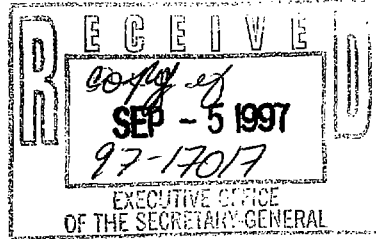
I am pleased to transmit herewith the original of the letter of 18 August 1997 addressed to H. E. Mr. Kofi Annan from H. E. Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister of Japan. I attach herewith, for your reference, a copy of its translation together with the letter from Ambassador Konishi dated 26 August 1997, which Ambassador Takasu requested you to transmit to Mr. Annan when he met with you last week.

Yours sincerely,

/ Hideki Ito

Hideki Ito
Counsellor

Mr. Iqbal Riza
Chef de Cabinet
Under Secretary-General
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Room S - 3800E
New York, N. Y. 10017



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

26 August 1997

Dear Mr. Annan,

I wish to transmit herewith the letter of 18 August 1997 addressed to Your Excellency from H.E. Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister of Japan, which was sent through our Mission.

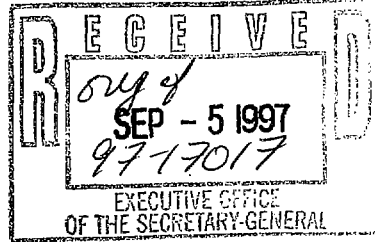
M. Konishi

Masaki Konishi
Chargé d'affaires
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Unofficial Translation)

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



18 August 1997

Dear Mr. Annan,

I read your proposal for the reform of the United Nations which you announced in the General Assembly on 16 July 1997. The reform of the United Nations is a subject on which I have a great concern, and I therefore read it with keen interest.

Japan believes it is necessary for the United Nations to carry out a reform that will strengthen its functions so that it can perform them as originally intended and further fulfill the roles it will have to play in response to the heightened expectations of the international community as we move into the twenty-first century. For that purpose, the overall U.N. reform should be carried out in a balanced manner including such aspects such as the Security Council, financing and development.

From this point of view, I appreciate your recent initiative to promote reform. I hope that the announcement of the proposals resulting from your initiative will produce greater momentum to overall reform of the United Nations, including reform of the Security Council, to which Japan attaches great importance.

The Government of Japan is now in severe financial straits and is accordingly striving to achieve structural reform of its financial system as its highest priority. I strongly request that for its part the Organization too work toward further rationalization so as to make the whole United Nations system more efficient, and thereby realize a reduction in the size of its budget. In this connection, I greatly appreciate the fact that your proposal includes the reinvestment plan that I have been advocating since the Lyon Summit last year and which has

received the support of many countries—I am referring to the plan to take the financial resources that will be made available as the result of economies in the United Nations budget and reinvest them in activities in the field of development. I hope that it will be implemented promptly.

As for the detailed points of the proposal, which covers a wide range of fields of the United Nations activities, we wish to convey our views when further study on the proposal is made.

Sincerely yours,

[signed]

Ryutaro Hashimoto
Prime Minister of Japan

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

アナン国連事務総長閣下

先般国連総会において貴事務総長により発表された国連改革に関する提案について、私としても大いに関心を寄せていたものであり、興味深く拝見させていただきました。

我が国としては、国連は来る二十一世紀に向けて国際社会の高まる期待に応え、本来の機能を発揮し十分な役割を果たすためその機能を強化するための改革を行うことが必要であると考えております。そのためには、改革は、安保理、財政、開発の各分野を含め全体として均衡のとれた形で進められることが必要であると考えております。

このような見地から、私は今回の貴事務総長による改革へ向けてのイニシアティブを評価しています。貴事務総長のイニシアティブによる改革提案の発表により、わが国として重視している安保理改革を含め、国連改革全体に一層モ

メンタムがつくことを期待しております。

我が国は目下厳しい財政事情にあり、政府の最重要課題として財政構造改革の実現に取り組んでおりますが、国連においても国連システム全体がより効率的なものとなるよう、より一層の合理化が図られ、予算の削減が実現することを強く要望します。この関連で、昨年のリヨン・サミット以来私が提案し多くの国々の支持を得た再投資計画、すなわち国連予算の節約により生じた資金を開発分野の活動に再投資するとの計画が、今回の提案に含まれていることを高く評価するとともに、この計画の迅速な実施を期待しております。

今回発表された改革提案は、国連の活動の広範な分野をカバーしておりますが、詳細については、さらに検討した上で、今後意見を表明していきたいと考えております。

敬具

平成九年八月十八日

日本国内閣総理大臣


橋本 龍太郎

国際連合事務総長

コフィー・アナン

閣下