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G. M. Sorensen  
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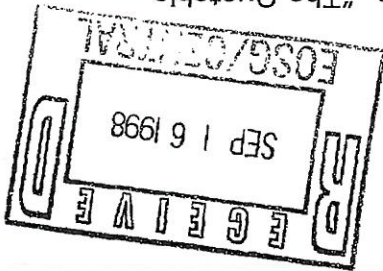
With your approval, we will distribute this

to speakers, leaders and others. (575 members)

all of 1997.

Kofi Annan" is attached -- with special thanks to  
the speechwriters who culled your remarks from  
As mentioned before, "The Quotable

Mr. Secretary-General,



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

NEW YORK

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES



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## THE QUOTABLE KOFI ANNAN

GMS

*The Quotable Kofi Annan* is intended as a tool for people speaking or writing about topics of concern to the United Nations. Taken together, the Secretary-General's statements constitute a wide-ranging commentary on the problems and challenges faced by the international community, and reflect the efforts of the United Nations to realize the goals of its founding Charter.

Full texts are available (using the "SG/SM" symbol or document number) through the United Nations home page on the Internet (<http://www.un.org/docs/sg/>), United Nations Information Centres in 70 cities around the world, and United Nations Depository Libraries offering Internet access, nearly 200 in a system of more than 360 in 140 countries.

Excellent, I didn't realize how much I have said in the past year.

There is one sentence in the University of Toronto guide to the Internet and search engine that is reflected.

"Faith elicits respect and faithfulness provoked hate."

Kofi Annan

43 E. 2nd Street  
5 June, 1997

## Africa

\* When Africa speaks with one voice, the world listens, but if Africa speaks with a cacophony of confused messages, few will listen and no one will hear.

--- *Address to the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Lomé, 26 March 1997 (SG/SM/6192)*

\* Africa has, in the past five decades, been through a series of momentous changes : first, there was decolonization and the struggle against apartheid, then came a second wave, too often marked by civil wars, the tyranny of military rule and economic stagnation. A new era is now in prospect, Africa's third wave. Let us make it one of lasting peace, based on democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

--- *Address to the Annual Assembly of Heads of State & Government of the OAU, Harare, 2 June 1997 (SG/SM/6245)*

\* Africa can no longer tolerate, and accept as faits accomplis, coups against elected governments, and the illegal seizure of power by military cliques. Armies exist to protect national sovereignty, not to train their guns on their own people.

--- *Ibid.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## AIDS

\* AIDS has changed the world for children. We must now change the world for them.

--- *Message to World AIDS Day, 1 December 1997 (SG/SM/6400)*

\* It is surely within the grasp of human ingenuity to make treatment available to all. This is yet another reason why the fight against HIV and AIDS is one of the most important challenges in the world.

--- *Message to the 10th International Conference on AIDS in Africa, Abidjan, 7 December 1997 (SG/SM/6416)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Business and the Private Sector*

\* In today's world, the profit motive and the development motive go hand in hand. They have become two sides of the same coin.

--- *Address to the Chicago World Trade Centre, 29 October 1997 (SG/SM/6365)*

\* Business and the United Nations are natural partners.

--- *Address to the Business Council for the UN, New York, 23 April 1997 (SG/SM/6220)*

\* A true partnership between governments, the private sector and the international community holds great promise.

--- *Ibid.*

\* There is a new universal understanding that market forces are essential for sustainable development.

--- *Ibid.*

\* There is growing and compelling evidence that the poor can help themselves if only they are given fair access to financial and business development services.

--- *Address to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 1 February 1997 (SG/SM/6153)*

\* Today, market capitalism has no major ideological rival; its biggest threat is from within itself. If it cannot promote both prosperity and justice, it will not have succeeded.

--- *Ibid.*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Civil society constitutes a major and increasingly important force in international life. In recent years, the United Nations has found that much of its work, particularly at the country level, involves intimately the diverse and dedicated contributions of non-governmental organizations and groups -- be it in economic and social development, humanitarian affairs, public health or the promotion of human rights. Similarly, the pronounced growth in the flow of private international economic transactions over the past decade has established the private sector as the major driving force of international economic change. Yet despite those growing manifestations of an ever-more robust global civil society, the United Nations is at present inadequately equipped to engage civil society and make it a true partner in its work.

--Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform, 14 July 1997 (A/51/950)

\* We -- the United Nations and all the institutions and members of civil society -- also confront the threats posed by the forces of "uncivil society": narco-traffickers, criminals, terrorists and others who capitalize on the new openness of borders, markets and communications, and who thrive where laws and institutions are weak. These and many other issues transcend national borders. They are beyond the power of any single nation to address on its own. Progress in the years ahead will require unprecedented levels of cooperation and collaboration among peoples of different cultures, religions and values. Thus the need for a common instrument of global service has never been greater.

--Message to the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, Lillehammer, Norway, 1 August 1997

\* The same technological means that foster globalization and the transnational expansion of civil society also provide the infrastructure for expanding global networks of "uncivil society" -- organized crime, drug traffickers, money launderers and terrorists.

--Renewal Amid Transition, Annual Report on the Work of the Organization 3 September 1997 (A/52/1)

\* The relationship between the United Nations and the Organizations of the civil society that it has come to symbolize has been transformed beyond all recognition since 1947.

--Address to 50th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, New York, 10 September 1997

\* The partnership between the UN and the NGOs is vital because we face new enemies -- the forces of what I call "uncivil society".

--- *Ibid.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Development*

\* The South is the driving force of economic change: today there is a clear and demonstrated link between profitability and raising living standards for the world's poorest people.

--- *Address to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 1 February 1997 (SG/SM/6153)*

\* The surest foundation for peace, stability and security is economic and social development.

--- *Address to the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations, New Delhi, 7 April 1997 (SG/SM/6197)*

\* Today development is a global concern that transcends ideology and immediate interest. It is now as much a moral as a political challenge proving that stability and prosperity are indivisible.

--- *Address to the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, 22 April 1997 (SG/SM/6218)*

\* South-South cooperation should be more than a slogan. [...] It should be not only a source of solidarity and strength but also a powerful force for development.

--- *Address to the Academy of Social Sciences and Institute of International Relations, Shanghai, 10 May 1997 (SG/SM/6234)*

- \* We are all here because we share a deep concern about the plight of poverty and deprivation in the world. We are all here because we believe this poverty to be intolerable in a world of plenty. And we are all here because we are convinced -- indeed we know -- that this poverty can be ended in our lifetime, with our own hands, with our own minds.
- Address to the World Bank Conference on "Global Knowledge '97", Toronto, 22 June 1997 (SG/SM/6268)
- \* We know that the global dilemma of squalor amid splendor is a creature of human agency, and that it can be reversed by human agency.
- Ibid.
- \* Nearly one half the world's population now lives in urban areas.... Increasingly, in terms of the problems they face, the world's cities are becoming more alike than not.
- Message on World Habitat Day, 6 October 1997 (SG/SM/6350)
- \* The world has enough food. What it lacks is the political will to ensure that all people have access to this bounty, that all people enjoy food security.
- World Food Day, 16 October 1997 (SG/SM/6362)
- \* So long as every fifth inhabitant of our planet lives in absolute poverty, there can be no real stability in the world.
- Message on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October 1997 (SG/SM/6360)
- \* Effective, transparent, accountable and responsive government, subject to the rule of law, is the very foundation for sustainable development, not the result of it.
- Address to University of Chile, Santiago, 5 November 1997 (SG/SM/6384)

--- *Ibid.*

\* The banning of chemical weapons is a momentous act of peace.

--- *Address on the occasion of the opening for signature of the Chemical Weapons Convention, The Hague, 6 May 1997 (SG/SM/6232)*

\* One of the most monstrous tools of warfare has been ruled intolerable by all States Parties. We who have gathered here in The Hague need look no farther than to the fields of Flanders or to the streets of Halabja to see proof of how our century has been scarred and shamed by the use of chemical weapons. What we can do at its close, however, is to help ensure that they never again can become part of any nation's arsenal, never again the scourge of any battlefield, never again the silent but certain doom of a civilian population.

--- *Address to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 30 January 1997 (SG/SM/6151)*

\* Weapons in themselves do not cause wars. But an excess of arms breeds the suspicion and mistrust that can heighten tensions and lead to violent conflict.

*Disarmament*

\* \* \* \* \*

--- *Address to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, New York, 1 December 1997 (SG/SM/6409)*

\* The future well-being of humankind rests increasingly on the courage and foresight of its leaders to realize the full meaning of interdependence, and to translate it into practical actions.

--- *Address to UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize Ceremony, 12 November 1997 (SG/SM/6390)*

\* Even in 1945, our founders recognized the need to fight on two fronts to win the battle for enduring peace: on the security front, where victory spells freedom from fear; and on the economic and social front, where victory spells freedom from want.



--- *Ibid.*

\* An educated electorate is a powerful electorate. An informed citizenry is the greatest defender of freedom. An enlightened government is a democratizing government.

(SG/SM/6268)

--- *Address to the World Bank Conference on "Global Knowledge '97", Toronto, 22 June 1997*

\* Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

--- *Address at John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, Boston, 6 June 1997 (SG/SM/6249)*

\* With curiosity about the world comes concern, and with concern comes the desire to right the wrongs of oppression and reverse the tide of poverty throughout the world.

--- *Address on receiving honorary degree from Chuo University, Tokyo, 14 May 1997*

\* Education not only enriches a culture, it is the first condition for freedom, democracy and sustainable development.

(SG/SM/6165)

--- *Address to the American Council on Education, Washington, D.C., 24 February 1997*

\* Many years of service in the world Organization have convinced me that the first ingredient of political stability is an informed citizen; the first ingredient of economic progress is a skilled worker and the first ingredient of social justice is an enlightened society. Education is the key to global peace and well-being.

*Education*

\*\*\*\*\*

--- *Ibid.*

\* We must do more to rid our world of the wicked weapons whose primary target are the innocents of any conflict -- women and children.

\*\*\*\*\*

---Address to Kuwait University, 13 December 1997 (SG/SM/6421)

\* Education is one of the most effective forms of defence spending there is.

---Address to University of Chile, Santiago, 5 November 1997 (SG/SM/6384)

\* Without education, we cannot see beyond ourselves and our narrow surroundings to the reality of global interdependence. Without education, we cannot realize how peoples of other races and religions share the same dreams, the same hopes. Without education, we cannot recognize the universality of human aims and aspirations.

---Ibid.

\* The different, the displaced, the refugees are the ones who enrich all our lives, and your tolerance and openness toward them will open new worlds for you, and make you welcome wherever you go.

---Message to Mfanstipim Secondary School, Ghana, 25 October 1997

\* Once, I remember, Reverend Branful took out a large white sheet with a black dot in the middle, draped it over the blackboard and asked us: "What do you see?" We all answered: "The black dot." "Why only the black dot," he responded, "why only the negative? What about the vast white spaces around?" He was reminding us to always look beyond the obvious and beneath the surface, to bear in mind the larger picture, not to focus just on the blemishes. He was teaching us also to remember that there is more than one side to a story, and more than one answer to a question.

---Message on International Literacy Day, 8 September 1997 (SG/SM/6316)

\* Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. Especially for girls and women, it is an agent of family health and nutrition. For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right. Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.

*Environment*

\* Safeguarding the environment is a guiding principle of our work in support of sustainable development; it is an essential component of poverty eradication and one of the foundations for peace.

--- *Message to High-level Segment of 19th session of Governing Council of UNEP, Nairobi, 5 February 1997 (SG/SM/6155)*

\* The threat to our environment has taught us that privilege and prosperity cannot protect any nation if poverty and pollution are destroying another.

--- *Toast at luncheon for Heads of State & Government attending the 19th Special Session of the General Assembly, New York, 23 June 1997 (SG/SM/6270)*

\* Considering the environmental consequences of our actions must become second nature to us all, in every choice and every decision we make; if it does not, all the laws and regulations, government programmes and market incentives in the world will not be enough to save us from environmental disaster.

--- *Address to UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize Ceremony, New York, 12 November 1997 (SG/SM/6390)*

\* The risks of climate change pose the most critical and pervasive environmental threats ever to the security of the human community and to life on Earth as we know it.

--- *Third session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto, 8 December 1997 (SG/SM/6415)*

\* On an issue that could have such a decisive effect on the future of humanity, we must act on the principle that precaution now is wiser than panic later.

--- *Ibid.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Globalization

\* Only a global Organization is capable of meeting global challenges.

---Address to the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 24 January 1997 (SG/SM/6149)

\* In every country of the North, there is a bit of the South; in every South there is a North.

---Address to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 1 February 1997 (SG/SM/6153)

\* Globalization ... is perhaps the most profound source of international transformation since the industrial revolution...

---Renewal Amid Transition: Annual Report on the Work of the Organization, 3 September 1997, (A/52/1)

\* The adjective "global" refers less to a place than to a space defined by electronic flows and a state of mind.

---Ibid.

\* We live in an era of realignment... As is true of all transitional periods, very different expressions of the human predicament coexist in uneasy tension today: globalization envelops the world even as fragmentation and the assertion of differences are on the rise; zones of peace expand while outbursts of horrific violence intensify; unprecedented wealth is being created but large pockets of poverty remain endemic; the will of the people and their integral rights are both celebrated and violated; science and technology enhance human life at the same time as their by-products threaten planetary life-support systems. It is not beyond the powers of political volition to tip the scale in this transition, towards a more secure and predictable peace, greater economic well-being, social justice and environmental sustainability. No country can achieve these global public goods on its own, however, just as none is exempt from the risks and costs of doing without them.

---Ibid.

\* The global agenda has never been so varied, so pressing or so complex. It demands of the international community new approaches, new resources and new commitments of political will.

---Address to Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 13 September 1997 (SG/SM/6325)

\* Issues before the United Nations... are issues that carry no passports. This is the message we are trying to send to the world. Yet the public is still thinking in local terms; it is still constrained by boundaries.

---Address to World TV Forum, New York, 19 November 1997 (SG/SM/6401)

\* \* \* \* \*

*Good Governance*

\* Some may argue that military regimes bring stability and predictability, that they are helpful to economic development. That is a delusion.

---Address to the Annual Assembly of Heads of State & Government of the OAU, Harare, 2 June 1997 (SG/SM/6245)

\* Good governance will give every citizen a real and lasting stake in the future of their societies -- politically, economically and socially.

---Address to the International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity, New York, 28 July 1997 (SG/SM/6291)

\* Without good governance -- without the rule of law, predictable administration, legitimate power, and responsive regulation -- no amount of funding, no amount of charity will set the developing world on the path to prosperity. Without good governance, the foundations of society -- both national and international -- would be built on sand.

---Address to the Danish Foreign Policy Society, Copenhagen, 1 September 1997 (SG/SM/6310)

--- *Ibid.*

\* Crucial to the new politics is a re-definition of the role of the State. The State, it is increasingly understood, is not a creator of wealth, but a facilitator and catalyst of development. An essential function of the state is to provide an enabling environment : in which investment can take place, wealth can be created, and individuals can prosper and grow. Civil society can then form and express itself, involving individuals in decisions affecting their own lives.

--- *Ibid.*

\* [The tools of the UN] need good craftsmen, brave thinkers and strong wills to make them work; to keep the house of peace and stability in order, whatever the storms that threaten to rattle it in the future.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Our duty... is not only to make talented and courageous people believe that their contribution to public service will make a difference; it is to make them understand that without them, the mission of good governance will fail.

--- *Address to United Nations Association of Canada, Toronto, 3 December 1997 (SG/SM/6412)*

\* We have seen what happens to... states when the centre falls apart; when rival militias replace reason; when citizens are bereft of the most basic conditions of stable existence; when outside powers involve themselves in the running of the country. We have seen in it Angola, in Somalia, in Zaire, in Bosnia.

--- *(SG/SM/6318)*

--- *Message to the Eighth International Anti-Corruption Conference, Lima, 7-11 September 1997*

\* No country is immune from corruption, and many are especially vulnerable because of their weak laws and institutions. Corruption also has an international dimension. The same open borders, technological advances, transnational communications and commercial transactions that are the hallmark of today global society can also allow corruption to take route and flourish. International cooperation -- among Governments, the private sector and civil society -- is thus essential if we are to defeat this menace.

---Address to the Annual Assembly of Heads of State & Government of the OAU, Harare, 2 June 1997 (SG/SM/6245)

\* I am aware of the fact that some view [the concern of human rights] as a luxury of the rich countries for which Africa is not ready. I know that others treat it as an imposition, if not a plot, by the industrialized West. I find these thoughts truly demeaning, demeaning of the yearning for human dignity that resides in every African heart.

--- Ibid.

\* Raoul's life and achievements highlighted the vital role of the bystander, of the third party amidst conflict and suffering. His intervention gave hope to victims, encouraged them to fight and resist, to hang on and bear witness. It aroused our collective consciousness. The mystery remains, however: why were there so few Raouls?

---Address to "Facing History and Ourselves" Benefit, New York, 14 October 1997 (SG/SM/6359)

\* Let there be no doubt: there are some very basic standards of human behaviour, violations of which are simply unacceptable. Fundamental human rights are a product of human nature -- indeed human life -- itself.

### Human Rights

\*\*\*\*\*

--- Ibid.

\* You have understood -- and more importantly you have demonstrated -- that good governance must be built from the ground up. It cannot be imposed, either by national authorities, or by international agencies. It cannot be created overnight, nor can it take root in one day. Good governance is an accomplishment. It is the fruit of true dedication, selfless leadership, and a politics of integrity. Indeed, if all politics are local, so too can it be said that all good politics begin with good local politics.

--- Ibid.

\* The will of the people must be the basis of governmental authority. That is the foundation of democracy. That is the foundation of good governance.

---Address to the University of Tehran on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1997

\* Human rights are the foundation of human existence and co-existence. Human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. Human rights are what make us human. They are the principles by which we create the sacred home for human dignity.

---Message on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 1997 (SG/SM/6411)

\* Where slavery exists, human dignity itself is denied, and brings shame to all who claim to be compassionate or committed to the weak and the vulnerable of our world. Human rights are nothing if not the insistence on freedom from bondage and coercion in all aspects of life. And yet, on the threshold of a new millennium, we still find the old and, sadly, also new forms of slavery. Hundreds of thousands of people the world over live and die as slaves in one form or another.

---Ibid.

\* In the prospect of an international criminal court lies the promise of universal justice. Only then will the innocents of distant wars and conflicts know that they, too, may sleep under the cover of justice.

---Address to the International Bar Association, New York, 11 June 1997 (SG/SM/6255)

\* Many thought that the horrors of the Second World War could never happen again. And yet they have – in Cambodia, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Rwanda. Our time has shown us that man's capacity for evil knows no limits.

--- Address at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, 6 June 1997 (SG/SM/6249) Ibid.

\* Freedom knows no borders -- a fiery voice of liberty in one country can raise the spirits of another far away.

---Ibid.

\* Do not African mothers weep when their sons or daughters are killed or maimed by agents of repressive rule? Are not African fathers saddened when their children are unjustly jailed or tortured? Is not Africa as a whole impoverished when even one of its brilliant voices is silenced?



---Ibid.

\* There is no single model of democracy, or of human rights, or of cultural expression for all the world. But for all the world, there must be democracy, human rights, and free cultural expression.

--- Ibid.

\* Who can deny that we all share the same horror of violence? Who can deny that we all seek lives free of fear, torture and discrimination? Who can deny that we all seek to express ourselves freely and pursue our aims in life? When have you heard a free voice demand an end to freedom? Where have you heard a slave argue for slavery? When have you heard a victim of torture endorse the ways of the torturer? Where have you heard the tolerant cry out for intolerance?

--- Ibid.

\* Human rights are what reason requires and conscience commands. They are us and we are them. Human rights are rights that any person has as a human being. We are all human beings; we are all deserving of human rights. One cannot be true without the other.

--- Ibid.

\* It is the universality of human rights that gives them their strength. It endows them with the power to cross any border, climb any wall, defy any force.

--- Ibid.

\* Human rights are the expression of those traditions of tolerance in all religions and cultures that are the basis of peace and progress. Human rights are foreign to no culture and native to all nations. Tolerance and mercy have always and in all cultures been ideals of government rule and human behaviour. Today, we call these ideals human rights.

---Address on World Press Freedom Day, New York, 2 May 1997 (SG/SM/6229)

\* No democratic society can exist without a free, independent and pluralistic press.

*Information*

\* \* \* \* \*

11 December 1997

---News conference, Summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Tehran,

\* When we talk of human rights being a Western concept, doesn't the Iranian mother or the African mother cry when their son or daughter is tortured? Don't we all feel when one of our leaders is unjustly imprisoned? Don't we all suffer from the lack of law and from arbitrariness? What is foreign about that? What is Western about that? And when we talk of the right to development; the need to live their lives to the fullest and to be able to live their dreams, it is universal. And when I hear comments that human rights are something that are imposed, and all that, I don't understand it, quite personally. When you talk to the individuals, have you ever come across a victim, somebody who has been tortured, talking against human rights? Do you hear the people generally rejecting human rights which are intended to protect them? Everything we do, whether it is economic development, whether it is security or whatever, it is a human being that is at the center. And that is what we mean when we talk about human rights, when we talk about cultural expression, political rights, economic rights.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Human rights are *your* rights. Seize them. Defend them. Promote them. Understand them and insist on them. Nourish and enrich them. They are the best in us. Give them life.

--- *Ibid.*

\* One cannot pick and choose among human rights, ignoring some while insisting on others. Only as rights equally applied can they be rights universally accepted. Nor can they be applied selectively or relatively, or as a weapon with which to punish others. Their purity is their eternal strength.

\*\*\*\*\*

---Address to World TV Forum, New York, 19 November 1997

\* With the help of television, we can shine a light into ever more pockets of intolerance; there is nothing those dark recesses fear more than light. Through television, the world can be brought alive, so that we may care about it enough to help make it a better place. With the power of television, we can help ensure that our young are the first to benefit from this knowledge, and to make it their partner in the pursuit of a better future. Help us to use your power to achieve a better world for them, and for those who come after them.

---Ibid.

\* If information and knowledge are central to democracy, they are the conditions for development.

---Ibid.

\* Information and freedom are indivisible. The information revolution is unthinkable without democracy and true democracy is unimaginable without freedom of information.

---Address to The World Bank Conference on "Global Knowledge '97", Toronto, 22 June 1997 (SG/SM/6268)

\* We at the United Nations are convinced that information has a great liberating power waiting to be harnessed to our global struggle for peace, development and human rights. We believe this because we are convinced that it is ignorance, not knowledge, that makes enemies of men. It is ignorance, not knowledge, that makes fighters of children. It is ignorance, not knowledge, that leads some to advocate tyranny over democracy. It is ignorance, not knowledge, that makes some argue that human conflict is inevitable. It is ignorance, not knowledge, that makes others say that there are many worlds, when we know that there is one. Ours.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* --- *Remarks at the 49th session of the International Law Commission, 4 July 1997 (SG/SM/6279)*  
The foundation of the UN is the law. It is the idea that the behaviour of states and the relations between them shall be governed by one law, equal and applicable to all.

--- *Ibid.*

\* The international criminal court is the symbol of our highest hopes for this unity of peace and justice. It is a vital part of an emerging system of international human rights protection. It will ensure that indicted criminals suspected of genocide in any country can be tried and convicted.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Genocide -- the destruction of an entire people on the basis of ethnic or national origins -- is now a word of our time, too, a heinous reality that calls for a historic response.

--- *Address to the International Bar Association, New York, 11 June 1997 (SG/SM/6255)*

\* There can be no global justice, ladies and gentlemen, unless the worst of crimes -- crimes against humanity -- are subject to the law. In this age more than ever do we recognize that the crime of genocide against one people truly is an assault on us all -- a crime against humanity.

*International Law*

--- *Ibid.*

\* Each mine cleared may mean a life saved. But we know also that for every one-hundred thousand mines cleared a year, between two-and-five million mines are laid at the same time. The presence -- or even the fear of the presence -- of just one land-mine can prevent the cultivation of an entire field, robbing a family or perhaps an entire village of its livelihood.

--- *Address to the Diplomatic Conference on Landmines, Oslo, 3 September 1997 (SG/SM/6313)*

\* There is a new and growing consensus that the proliferation of arms of all kinds -- whether they be weapons of mass destruction or small-arms weapons -- inherently constitutes a threat to peace.

### *Landmines*

\* \* \* \* \*

--- *Address to the Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Tehran, 9 December 1997 (SG/SM/6418)*

\* In closing, allow me to pay tribute to the great faith and civilization of Islam. It has ennobled and enriched humanity throughout its history. Today, it inspires the belief of almost a billion men and women, and is a universal spiritual force for mankind. This fact makes it all the more distressing to witness the increasing resort to violence and terror by extremist groups in the name of Islam. They are sullying the image of a religion whose very name signifies peace and whose Almighty is the Compassionate, the Merciful.

### *Islam*

---Address to the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 24 January 1997 (SG/SM/6149)

\* If war is the failure of diplomacy, then diplomacy, both bilateral and multilateral, is our first line of defence. The world today spends billions preparing for war; shouldn't we spend a billion or two preparing for peace ?

(GA/9211)

---Address to the General Assembly upon accepting the post of Secretary-General, 17 December 1996

\* The world is beginning to recognize the many roots of conflict, the economic base of stability and the grim truth that intolerance, injustice and oppression respect no national frontiers.

*Peace and Security*

\*\*\*\*\*

---Ibid.

\* We must now turn our energies and our imaginations to the cause of mine-clearance, so that this victory today does not become a hollow one.

(SG/SM/6410/Rev.1)

---Address to the Signing Ceremony of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, Ottawa, 3 December 1997

\* The global alliance that created this Convention is an alliance made up of individuals and governments, of grass-roots movements and global humanitarian organizations. It is an alliance that has shamed the world and enlightened it, unmasked its excuses and revealed its potential. It has held up a mirror to us all, revealing the wickedness of human folly and the wisdom of human courage. It has, for once, made "the international community" a living, thriving reality, and not just the hope of a distant future. Only a living, thriving "international community" could come together, across borders and beyond regions, to eliminate this universal plague.... Your success is a welcome reminder that one does not have to be a global superpower to affect the future of international peace and security.

--- *Ibid.*

\* There is nothing inevitable about conflict in one part of the world or tyranny in another. The problems the world is facing are political and economic problems with political and economic solutions.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Looking to any post-conflict situation makes us realize the cost of diplomatic opportunities not seized and preventive initiatives not carried out.

--- *Ibid.*

\* I wish to propose a different view. And that is that these failures, these wars, these problems are political problems and economic problems with political and economic solutions. There is nothing inevitable about conflict in one part of the world, or tyranny in another. Freedom and human rights are concepts as universal as they are political, amenable to human agency of any colour or creed. The Charter of the United Nations was written in the name of "We, the Peoples of the United Nations".

--- *Address to the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, 22 April 1997 (SG/SM/6218)*

\* The global response to... recent developments has, to an alarming degree, been one of despair and resignation. It is said that these state failures and the civil and ethnic wars that too often have followed in their wake are inevitable. It is said that the difficulties occasionally faced by international interventions confirm precisely the intractability of these problems.

--- *Address to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 1 February 1997 (SG/SM/6153)*

\* Lasting peace requires more than intervention of the Blue Helmets on the ground. Effective peace-keeping demands a broader notion of human security. We cannot be secure amidst starvation, we cannot build peace without alleviating poverty, we cannot build freedom on foundations of injustice.

--- *Ibid.*

\* The use of peacekeeping by the international community, in pursuit of common interests, must be credible and it must be legitimate. Credible force without legitimacy may have immediate results, but will not enjoy long-term international support. Legitimate force without credibility may enjoy universal support even as it is unable to implement the basic provisions of its mandate.

--- *Address to the seminar: "Adapting to a Changing World. Recent Lessons from UN Peacekeeping Operation", 17 November 1997 (SG/SM/6398)*

\* Political motivation and political persuasion are critical elements in a peace process. When the parties are genuinely interested in a settlement, mountains can be moved in the interest of peace. However, in chaotic conditions in which power has devolved to splintered factions which have no real interest in peace, there are palpable limits to what the international community can accomplish. A sense of community -- the will to reconcile -- cannot be imposed.

--- *Address to the Chicago World Trade Centre, 29 October 1997 (SG/SM/6365)*

\* During the cold war, peace and security tended to be defined simply in terms of military might or the balance of terror. Today, we have a greater appreciation for the non-military sources of conflict. We know that lasting peace requires a broader vision, encompassing education and literacy, health and nutrition, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We know that we cannot be secure amidst starvation. We cannot build peace without alleviating poverty. We cannot build freedom on foundations of injustice.

--- *Address to Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 13 September 1997 (SG/SM/6325)*

\* Today, security is increasingly understood not just in military terms, and as far more than the absence of conflict. It is in fact a phenomenon that encompasses economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament and respect for human rights. These goals -- these pillars of peace -- are inter-related. Progress in one area begets progress in another. But no country can get there on its own. And none is exempt from the risks and costs of doing without.



- \* Combined, however, under the umbrella of the United Nations, credibility and legitimacy in the use of force are not only possible, but mutually reinforcing in pursuit of a universal ideal. To achieve this unity of purpose and promise, we must and we will restore the global faith in the United Nations.
- *Ibid.*
- \* \* \* \* \*
- Reform of the United Nations*
- \* Reform is a process, not an event.
- *Address to the National Press Club, Washington, D. C., 24 January 1997 (SG/SM/6149)*
- \* Reform must be rooted in a new consensus among governments on what the UN can do best, what it should do with others, and what it should leave for others to do.
- *Ibid.*
- \* Clearly we cannot meet the challenges of the new millennium with an instrument designed for the very different circumstances of the middle of the 20th century.
- *Address to the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, 22 April 1997 (SG/SM/6218)*
- \* The Security Council's composition reflects the world of 1945 and not the realities of today.
- *Address to the United Nations Association of Japan, Tokyo, 13 May 1997 (SG/SM/6236)*
- \* The United Nations is a noble experiment in human cooperation.
- *Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform, 14 July 1997 (A/51/950)*

--- Renewal Amid Transition: Annual Report on the Work of the Organization, 3 September 1997 (A/52/1)

\* To succeed in the new century, the United Nations must unleash its own major resource: the complementarities and synergies that exist within it. In other words, the United Nations must undergo fundamental, not piecemeal, reform.

--- Address to the Special Meeting of the General Assembly on Reform, 16 July 1997 (SG/SM/6284/Rev.2)

\* The reforms I am proposing are bold reforms. They are the most extensive and far-reaching reforms in the fifty-two-year history of our Organization.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Reforming the machinery of the United Nations is no substitute for the willingness of Governments to use the Organization, nor can it, by itself, bridge the very real differences in interests and power that exist among Member States. What it can achieve is to maximize the institutional effectiveness of the United Nations, thereby enabling it to do better what it is asked to do and, consequently, to advocate and undertake with credibility its larger mission as an agency of progressive change for the world's nations and peoples alike.

--- *Ibid.*

\* The fundamental objective of this reform effort is to narrow the gap between aspiration and accomplishment. It seeks to do so by establishing a new leadership culture and management structure at the United Nations that will lead to greater unity of purpose, coherence of efforts and agility in responding to the pressing needs of the international community.

--- *Ibid.*

\* The [ reform programme ] seeks nothing less than to transform the leadership and management structure of the Organization, enabling it to act with greater unity of purpose, coherence of efforts, and agility in responding to the many challenges it faces. These measures are intended to renew the confidence of Member States in the relevance and effectiveness of the Organization and revitalize the spirit and commitment of its staff.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Their aim is simple. To transform the Organization. To bring greater unity of purpose, greater coherence of efforts, and greater agility in responding to an increasingly dynamic and complex world.

--- *Ibid.*

\* We aspire to a United Nations that recognizes, and joins in partnership with, an ever-more robust global civil society, while helping to eliminate uncivil elements, like drug traffickers, criminals and terrorists; a United Nations that will view change as a friend, not change for its own sake but change that permits us to do more by doing what we do better.

--- *Ibid.*

\* What are the objectives of our reforms? We aspire to a United Nations that is focused on its priorities, and can act with greater unity of purpose, coherence of efforts and responsiveness; a United Nations that empowers both governments and people to realize goals through collaboration that might otherwise elude them; a United Nations that will express the highest moral aspirations of humankind even as it delivers practical benefits to men, women and children in cities and villages around the world.

(SG/SM/6334)

--- *Address to the General Assembly on the Opening of the 52nd Session, 22 September 1997*

\* Let this be known as the "Reform Assembly". Let it be remembered as the time when all of us joined forces and seized the opportunities created by the new era to revitalize our United Nations -- this unique and universal instrument for concerted action in pursuit of the betterment of humankind.

--- *Address to the University of Reykjavik, Iceland, 4 September 1997 (SG/SM/6317)*

\* Reform begins at the top, with leadership.

\* \* \* \* \*

--- *Ibid.*

\* In an age of globalization, the United States needs the United Nations, and the United Nations needs the United States. This is one of the pivotal relationships of our day.

--- *Address to Princeton University, 24 November 1997 (SG/SM/6404)*

\* Is Washington's will to lead diminishing even as many around the globe look to it for leadership? Is it no longer convinced of the myriad benefits to be had from multilateral cooperation even as it seeks multilateral cooperation in Iraq? Is it prepared to step away from the world of expanding freedom, democracy, growth and opportunity that it did so much to bring about?

*UN-US Relations*

\* \* \* \* \*

--- *Address to Princeton University, 24 November 1997 (SG/SM/6404)*

\* At a time when the United Nations is rising to the challenge of reform, and at a time when it is proving its mettle yet again in coping with the Iraqi threat to international peace and security, the troubling asymmetry between what the Member States want of the Organization and what they actually allow it to be is especially stark.

--- *Ibid.*

\* If there is one thing that my experience has taught me, it is that an adequately funded and properly structured United Nations -- this Organization of ours -- can and will carry out its mission on behalf of the world's peoples and governments.

*The United Nations for the Next Century*

\* Applaud us when we prevail, correct us when we fail, but do not let this indispensable institution wither, languish or perish as a result of Member States indifference or inattention.

---Address to the General Assembly upon accepting the post of Secretary-General, 17 December 1996 (GA/9211)

\* We should bring the Organization closer to the people.

---Press Conference upon accepting the post of Secretary-General, New York, 18 December 1996 (GA/9212)

\* There is no alternative to the UN. It is still the last best hope of humanity.

---Address to UN Staff, New York, 9 January 1997 (SG/SM/6140)

\* I believe that this new world of ours needs an effective United Nations more, not less, and that public demand for concerted action to avert global threats and secure peace will grow, not weaken, as this century draws to a close.

--Address to the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, 22 April 1997 (SG/SM/6218)--

\* To paraphrase Winston Churchill, give us the tools -- the trust, the authority and the means -- and we will do the job.

--Ibid.

\* We have to show that this Organization deals not only in dusty abstractions, but in crucial life and death matters affecting the well-being of all women, men and children, every citizen of this planet.

---Address to the Annual Assembly of Heads of State & Government of the OAU, Harare, 2 June 1997 (SG/SM/6245)

--- *Ibid.*

\* The United Nations lives in the heart and mind of every citizen striving to end violence and promote tolerance; advance development and ensure equality; protect human rights and alleviate poverty. The United Nations, at its best, enables the achievement of those highest of human aspirations.

--- *Address on United Nations Day, 24 October 1997*

\* In every corner of the world – in every village and city and community – the United Nations is a living testament of hope.

--- *Address to the Special Meeting of the General Assembly on Reform, New York, 16 July 1997 (SG/SM/6284/Rev.2)*

\* In return I ask of Member States and of the world public that you judge us not only by the cuts we propose or by the structures we change. Judge us instead – and judge us rightly – by the relief and the refuge that we provide to the poor, to the hungry, the sick and threatened – the peoples of the world whom the United Nations exists to serve.

--- *Ibid.*

\* Our enemy now is indifference, the belief that there are many worlds, and that the only one we need to care about is our own. That belief is false – there is one world, one humanity and human security is indivisible.

--- *Address at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, Boston, 6 June 1997 (SG/SM/6249)*

\* We have the means to pursue our highest aims, we have the knowledge, the wealth, the tools and the talent. Our greatest challenge is to summon the will of the world.

--- *Address to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 6 June 1997 (SG/SM/6247)*

\* We seek a United Nations that will view change as a friend, not change for its own sake but change that permits us to do more good by doing it better. We seek a UN that is leaner, more focused, more flexible and more responsive to changing global needs.

\* \* \* \* \*

--Address to the Opening of the 52nd Session of the General Assembly, New York, 22 September 1997 (SG/SM/6334)

\* Violence against women has become the most pervasive human rights violation, respecting no distinction of geography, culture or wealth.

--Address to the 41st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 10 March 1997 (SG/SM/6179)

\* In war-torn societies, women often keep society going. [...] They are often the prime advocates for peace.

--Message on International Women's Day, 8 March 1997 (SG/SM/6176)

\* Women's equality must be a central component of any attempt to solve the world's social, economic and political problems.

--Address to the Group on Equal Rights for Women in the United Nations, New York, 7 March 1997 (SG/SM/6178)

\* Full equality for women means more than the accomplishment of statistical objectives : the culture has to change.

### Women

\* \* \* \* \*

-- Toast at Official dinner, Kuwait City, 13 December 1997

\* Every country, whether big or small ... needs the United Nations. In that partnership of sovereign nations, all countries have a contribution to make. In that partnership, every nation can, will and must have a say, regardless of its size, its population, its wealth, or its weapons arsenal.