

APR 26 1999
SG/CENTRAL

ACC RETREAT
9-10 APRIL 1999

WELCOMING REMARKS

FRIDAY 9 APRIL, 9.30 PM

- Let me begin by expressing my sincere thanks to all of you for making the time to join the team here at Mont-Pèlerin. Your presence is a true expression of your commitment to making the United Nations system a more vital and effective tool for all the world's nations and peoples.
- As you know, the General Assembly has accepted my proposal that its 55th Session, in the autumn of next year, should be designated as "The Millennium Assembly", and should include a "Millennium Summit".
- As my contribution to those deliberations, I have undertaken to prepare a report identifying key challenges which the United Nations will face in the decades ahead, and making proposals for an effective response.
- I see the Millennium as a major opportunity, not just for the UN Secretariat but for the whole United Nations system, to demonstrate its capacity to address the problems of the new century, and to mark out clearly the direction in which it needs to move.
- I believe that, in the global economy and society we are now entering, the need for an effective global organization – an effective family of global agencies – is greater than it has ever been.
- We together face an enormous responsibility. We shall not live up to it unless all of us – member states, agencies, funds and programmes - have a clear definition of our common task, and of the specific role that each of us has to play in it.
- That is why I have invited you all to join me in this brainstorming exercise. Each of you, as executive head of an agency or fund or programme, has his or her own

unique perspective. But I know you are also conscious, all of you, that you belong to the United Nations family.

- I am asking each of you, during this Retreat, to bring your unique perspective to bear on the problems we all face. Please think not only how you can advance the particular cause or activity in which you specialise – vital though it is - but also how the system as a whole needs to develop, if it is to give the peoples of the world the service they expect.
- The point of this Retreat is not to exchange information about what we are doing. We have other opportunities to do that. It is to share ideas about what we should be doing, and to focus on areas where we should be having a greater impact. To identify how the United Nations system as a whole can become bigger and better than the sum of its parts.

Friends, I am looking forward to a really productive day tomorrow. I urge you all to get a good night's sleep. See you at breakfast!