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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

22 April 2005

Excellency,

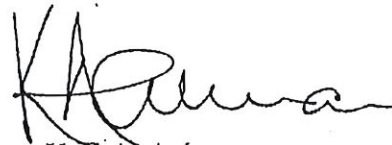
I wish to thank you for your letter of 12 April 2005 forwarding your report on the results of the forty-fourth session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Allow me to express my appreciation for the efforts by the Board, under your guidance, to review and formulate recommendations on the important issues related to nuclear non-proliferation and small arms control. I have taken note of the recommendations made by the Board on the issue of establishing multilateral nuclear approaches, aimed at halting the building of national nuclear fuel cycle facilities and tightening fissile material control. I have also noted the recommendations made on further developing global norms to control the spread of small arms. I will continue my efforts to urge the international community to give high priority to address the threat posed by small arms proliferation.

I am also grateful for the Board's effective oversight of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

I wish to express personally my appreciation for your invaluable contribution as Chairman and wish you continued success for the second session.

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

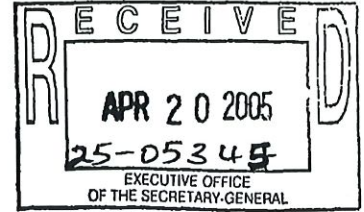

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. Vicente Berasategui
Chairman
Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
Buenos Aires



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HEADQUARTERS • SIEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL.: 1 (212) 963.1234 • FAX: 1 (212) 963.4879



Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
44th Session
New York, 23-25 February 2005

12 April 2005

Dear Secretary-General,

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held its first session of the year from 23 to 25 February 2005 in New York. On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our appreciation to you for taking time off your busy schedule to meet with us during the session. I have the pleasure to convey to you a report on our deliberations, which will be supplemented after the completion of the second session this summer in Geneva.

The Board expressed grave concern at the prospects that nuclear proliferation could take on a new type of impetus as it was possible for a number of States to acquire nuclear weapons under the cover of peaceful nuclear activities, and the related threats that might arise from the action of terrorists or non-State actors.

The Board reiterated the need to alert the international community to the continuing threat and challenges posed by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW), the weapons category that kills the largest number of people. In this connection, the Board recommended that high priority be given to tackling the challenge posed by SALW at the General Assembly summit in September this year.

The Board made several recommendations on issues related to the nuclear fuel cycle and fissile material control, as well as on regional security and global norms in relation to SALW.

At its next session in Geneva, the Board will examine the following topics: (1) challenges and opportunities at the regional level in the areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms and; (2) a review of disarmament machinery.

We value the opportunity to serve on this distinguished advisory body and reaffirm our determination to continue our efforts to reach agreement on concrete recommendations on those important subjects on the global disarmament agenda.

Yours sincerely,


Vicente Barralotegui
Chairman

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York