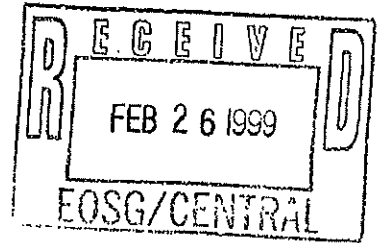




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

S. Africa  
JDDA

UN0397



23 February 1999

Excellency,

I thank you for your note of 22 February 1999 in which you inform me of the decision by Your Excellency's Government to destroy all surplus small arms in the possession of the Government, following the recommendation contained in my report on small arms.

I welcome this initiative by the Government of South Africa. The devastating effects that the excessive proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons have on the social, economic and political progress of nations, especially in a conflict-affected area such as Africa, are well known. South Africa's unilateral initiative of destroying all surplus small arms will certainly serve as a valuable example for other nations to follow.

May I assure Your Excellency of the full support of the United Nations for this and other initiatives aimed at alleviating the problems posed by small arms and light weapons around the world.

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

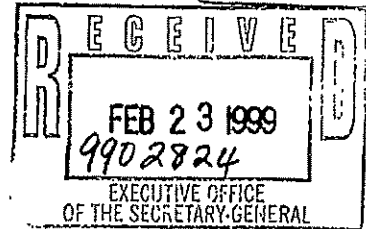
- Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Khiphusizi J. Jele  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of South Africa to the United Nations  
New York

S. Africa  
DDA

-RK

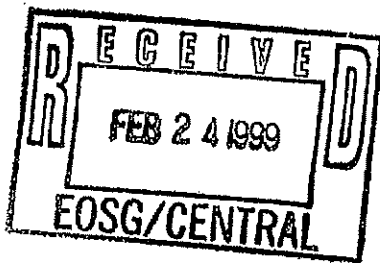
Unusual



Note to Mr. Riza

(#99-02739)

1. Please find enclosed a note verbale addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN regarding the decision of the South African Government to destroy all surplus small arms in its possession.
2. The South African Government has decided to take this step in line with the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on Small Arms (A/52/298), and because of its concern about the proliferation of small arms which have a devastating effect on the social, economic and political developments in the South African region.
3. The Government of South Africa plans to destroy the weapons in a public ceremony and will invite the United Nations to be represented at the ceremony.
4. The South African Mission has requested to circulate the note verbale as well as the attached statement as an official UN document. It has also expressed the wish to receive a prompt response from the Secretary-General welcoming this initiative and encouraging other countries to do the same. Enclosed herewith is a draft response for your consideration and approval.



Jayantha Dhanapala

Jayantha Dhanapala  
23 February 1999

Mr. Dhanapala

A note-verbale (NV) normally should be replied to in the same format - third person. It could contain the same element as your letter.

The incoming NV is being copied to GA Division since it requests circulation.

JM

990368 son