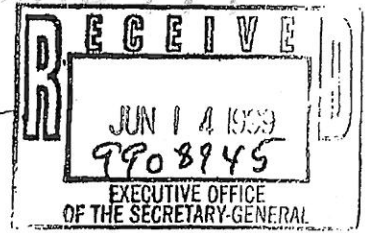


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Note to the Secretary-General

G-8 TASK FORCE ON NUCLEAR TESTING BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN

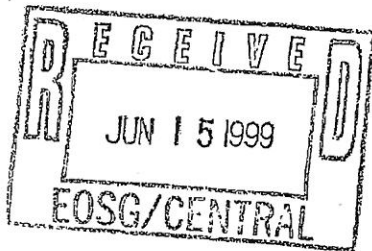
1. I wish to bring to your attention and consideration the attached paper concerning Canada's proposal for a possible participation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the work of the G-8 Task Force of Senior Officials, established in June 1998, to address the crisis resulting from the May 1998 nuclear-weapon tests by India and Pakistan. Should the Department agree, Canada intends to submit this proposal at the next meeting of the Task Force, which is scheduled to take place on 23 June in Kiev.

2. Having carefully considered the proposal, I strongly feel that a direct involvement by the United Nations in the work of the G-8 Task Force is not advisable. In the recent past, DDA has received invitations to participate actively in measures pursued by a number of like-minded countries on politically sensitive issues and has always declined those invitations. However, I shall be glad to have your guidance on this matter.

Jayantha Dhanapala

Jayantha Dhanapala

11 June 1999



SG I endorse JD's view.  
Rambh.

Agreed, we decline the invitation.  
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PRIORITY

M. Dhanapala

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cc

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**SENIOR OFFICIALS TASK FORCE ON NUCLEAR TESTS**  
**BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

- At their meeting in London on June 12, 1998, G-8 Foreign Ministers decided to establish a Task Force of Senior Officials to address the crisis resulting from nuclear weapons tests in India and Pakistan in May, 1998.
- Recognizing the need for a broad-based response to the South Asian tests, the Task Force goes beyond the G-8 to include representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, the Philippines (at the first meeting as ASEAN Chair), the Republic of Korea and the Ukraine. The European Union Presidency and representatives of the European Commission also participate. Kazakhstan and South Africa have been invited to join but have yet to accept the invitation.
- The first meeting of the Task Force was held in London on July 9, 1998. Subsequent meetings have been held in London (October 30, 1998) and in Tokyo (February 11, 1999). The next meeting will be held in Kiev on June 23, 1999.

The Terms of Reference for the Task Force are:

- to consider issues arising from India and Pakistan's nuclear tests,
  - to follow attentively the response of India and Pakistan to the advice of the international community, to exchange information on contacts with India and Pakistan and to ensure that a coordinated message is transmitted to India and Pakistan in these contacts.
  - to coordinate efforts by its members to seek, including bilaterally and in other groups, to broaden international support for initiatives aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation regime called for by the international community, including in UNSC 1172, and
  - to help promote dialogue and confidence-building measures in South Asia in order to reduce tension in the region.
- The Kiev meeting will *inter alia* review the membership of the Task Force, giving consideration to other countries and organisations that might usefully be added to the group. Given the U.N.'s role in the international community's response to the nuclear tests (e.g., UNSC 1172 as basis for international benchmarks, UNGA resolutions, sponsorship of the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures in Colombo), Canada believes that a senior representative of the Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA) could make a useful contribution to the Task Force's work.
  - If the DDA is interested, Canada would be prepared to recommend to the Task Force at its Kiev meeting that the Department should be invited to attend the next meeting.