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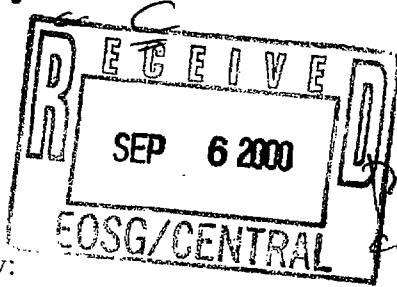
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*SIR (Wed 3/8 pm)*

*US Panel on Peace Ops (S. West Amb. Holbrook)*



*This is a very thoughtful letter. An urgent response may be possible. Office could handle. Thanks.*

Excellency:

The United States Mission, and I personally, look forward to working with you and your Delegation during the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly. President Clinton, Secretary Albright and I are committed to making this year's General Assembly a success. Toward this end, allow me to take this opportunity to outline our principal priorities for this important session.

Our overarching objective is to build on the momentum of the Millennium Summit to make the United Nations more effective and efficient. This is an historic moment for the United Nations. For fifty-five years, this organization has helped sustain development, improve health and education standards, spread democracy and freedom, and keep the peace. In short, it has made a real difference in the lives of billions of people worldwide. Our common challenge is to assure that the United Nations does even better.

At the dawn of a century, the United Nations must help all the world's peoples to confront new challenges and shape new destinies. To be sure, this will not be easy. Success requires us to be creative and committed. And it requires every state -- from the founding members to the newest members -- to recognize its unique role in making this organization as politically effective and financially efficient as possible.

In the coming weeks, we will focus our efforts around the following specific objectives:

**Financial Reform**

We face no duty more pressing than to ensure that the UN enters the next century with a resource base that is adequate to meet its needs. As such, the United States' foremost objective for the 55<sup>th</sup> UNGA is to build consensus on a set of key financial reforms. Over the past eight months we have worked closely with most of you on this all-important subject. The leadership that so many nations have demonstrated in seeking to create a broader, more up-to-date financial foundation for the organization has encouraged us. In fact, for the first time in 27 years a substantial majority of the membership is in agreement on the need to reform the *ad hoc* peacekeeping scale of assessment, and over a dozen countries have already agreed to assume an increased financial responsibility for peacekeeping operations. But much more needs to be done.

With regard to the UN regular budget scale of assessment, the U.S. will work with the

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membership to promote the use of more recent economic data as the basis for the scale, and to broaden the organization's tax base so as to lessen over-reliance on a single contributor. During deliberations on the peacekeeping scale, the U.S. will work to bring the scale in line with current realities, and to ensure that it more adequately reflects the special responsibilities of all Permanent Members of the Security Council. In all areas of the debate we will seek to ensure that the financial reform process does not increase the burden on poor countries, and that no Member State is asked to pay more than it can realistically afford. We believe it is essential to take action on both scales by the close of Fifth Committee deliberations this December.

### Peacekeeping Reform

The 55<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly is a critical juncture for UN peacekeeping. During the past year the UN has taken on five new major peacekeeping operations (East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia-Eritrea) and a substantial expansion of the existing mandate in South Lebanon. The success of the UN's efforts in these challenging operations will be decisive in determining whether the UN remains relevant in the new century. Yet, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's Millennium Report, success will be impossible unless we, the Member States, renew our commitment to this core function and take immediate steps to significantly restructure and strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capacity.

The recently released Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations is an important and commendable step in the right direction and deserves our serious and immediate attention. I urge Member States to seize this unique opportunity to build broad consensus for early action in order to enhance the ability of the UN to fulfill its essential peacekeeping functions. We will support an endorsement by the General Assembly of the report.

### Middle East

The world stands at a crossroads on the path toward a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. It is my hope that the international community will demonstrate its commitment to this important process through a General Assembly resolution that takes note of the significant progress made and expresses our support for the parties as they continue their efforts. Conversely, we would count on the General Assembly to avoid further complicating this issue with unbalanced or unhelpful resolutions that do not reflect the improved conditions for peace.

### Global Development

This new millennium dawns on a world community that is more inextricably linked than ever before. The Secretary General has focussed our attention on the fact that global development, and the continuing process of globalization, are of central importance to all of us. In his report for the Millennium Assembly, Secretary General Annan proposed several important initiatives on poverty eradication and development. The United States shares the view that poverty reduction should be a top priority. The UN's Financing for Development initiative constitutes an excellent opportunity to forge wider international agreement on how countries can

develop more rapidly and meet the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization. We also look towards the UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in May 2001 as a chance to help shape a positive program of action for the next decade on issues such as trade, investment, official development assistance, and debt.

### **HIV/AIDS**

The world community has paid unprecedented attention to the global tragedy that is HIV/AIDS this year, both in the Security Council and at the 13<sup>th</sup> International AIDS conference in Durban. But our work has only just begun. Now decades old, this pandemic is truly devastating in human, economic and security terms and is posed to spread quickly through areas that until recently were nearly unaffected. Though the world response to date has been painfully weak, the situation is not hopeless. The leaders of the world are faced with the grave responsibility of increasing international coordination, intensity and dedication to create a real and effective global response. We look forward to continuing to work with you to combat this killer.

### **Human Rights**

Each year's meeting of the General Assembly offers us an important opportunity to underscore, in various ways, the universal nature of human rights standards. The United States believes that democracy lies at the heart of human rights. We place particular importance on adoption by the 55<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of a resolution on promoting and consolidating democracy. We also hope to work with you towards widespread ratification and implementation of two protocols to the rights of the child convention.

### **Information Technology and Cyber-Crime**

Rapid advances in information technology and the free flow of information have brought about tremendous economic and social benefits worldwide. At the same time, increasing international reliance on information technology has created new opportunities for cyber criminals who have the ability to cross national boundaries at will. This creates the challenge of finding ways to combat international hi-tech and computer-related crime while still providing encouragement to the private sector, promotion of competition, flexible regulatory frameworks, and the development of broadly available and affordable access. We will work with you to identify ways, both on an international level and, more importantly, on the domestic level, of meeting this challenge.

### **Non-proliferation in South Asia**

International unity against nuclear and missile proliferation in South Asia in the General Assembly's First Committee remains critically important. I hope that the General Assembly will take this opportunity to endorse the consensus reached at the NPT Review Conference.

### **Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty**

Resumption of these negotiations continues to be a high priority for the United States. FMCT is of critical importance to disarmament, non-proliferation, and international security. We urge you to support the immediate resumption of FMCT negotiations, as agreed to by consensus in the NPT Review Conference final document.

### **Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Of crucial importance is the effort to stem the flow of uncontrolled and illicit small arms and light weapons. To this end we need to establish a firm foundation of strong policies and practices at the global, regional and national levels that include comprehensive export controls, new brokering regulations, enhanced embargo enforcement procedures, and strong support for global destruction efforts. We believe that a single, universal solution to these complex problems will not succeed and therefore favor a regionally focussed approach based on globally accepted guidelines. We are committed to the successful completion this year of the firearms protocol of the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention and a successful outcome to the UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Thank you for taking your time to review this lengthy list of issues. I firmly believe that it is only through international cooperation that we can find effective approaches to the myriad of issues that face us in this new millennium. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these and many other important matters before the 55<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Richard Holbrooke