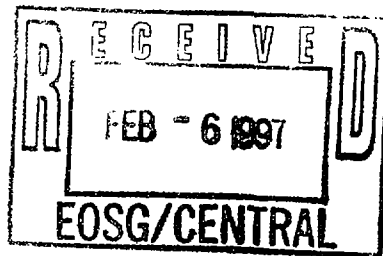




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

11610 "U"
[Signature]



30 January 1997

Dear Ambassador Abram,

I should like to thank you for your letter dated 18 December, which reached the United Nations on 9 January. I greatly regret that the exceptional workload associated with my recent appointment has precluded my responding before now.

I deeply appreciate the valuable work performed by UN Watch. I believe that informed and independent evaluation of the United Nations' activities will prove a vital resource as we seek to adapt the Organization to the needs of a changing world. I can promise you that I will pay close attention to your observations and views in the years ahead.

I should also like to express to you my personal appreciation for your most interesting reflections on the "bully pulpit" offered by the Secretary-General's office, and for your congratulations upon my own appointment.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind and encouraging words, together with my very best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Kofi A. Annan

Ambassador Morris B. Abram
Chairman
United Nations Watch
Geneva

MORRIS B. ABRAM
UNITED NATIONS WATCH
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

SR

JAN 8 1997
97-00779

Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General Designate
UN Headquarters
New York
U.S.A.

Personal & Confidential

Geneva, 18 December 1996

My dear Kofi,

This is the last time I shall address you thusly.

First, I wish to congratulate you and especially the United Nations and all of its family on your election.

Next, I would like to introduce you to UN Watch of which I am the founding Chairman. Eric Berman, who until recently was Under-Secretary-General Petrovsky's former Special Assistant (and prior to that was the UNTAC Assistant Spokesman) has now become our Executive Director.

I enclose a brief statement of the purpose of UN Watch. You will know some of the members of our board which includes Lane Kirkland, Per Ahlmark, Max Jakobson, Chaim Herzog and Jeane Kirkpatrick.

We have been very supportive of such international operations as the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and most of the independent UN agencies. We have been critical of the recent history of WHO (see article enclosed).

We have had a good relationship with Mr. Paschke -- the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services -- and I am enclosing some recent communications so that you will have preliminary insight into present concerns. Particularly, we are troubled by the reappointment of an Assistant Secretary General as late as November 4th giving him a contract to the end of this century.

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We have expressed anxiety to Mr. Paschke lest there be other such extensions or promotions of high officials in the remaining days of this term.

I hope you will find our views helpful whether you agree or not.

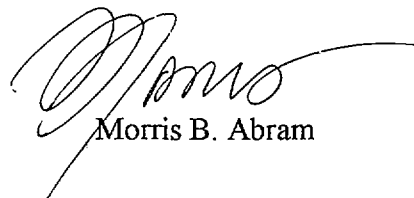
When Javier Pérez de Cuéllar spoke on 14 October to UN Watch's public annual meeting in Geneva I said, and I repeat, that the UN has been the only great organization not under a "watch" dedicated to its own stated purpose.

I have such great hopes for the UN under your leadership. And I have expressed one particular hope in an article (enclosed) submitted to the International Herald Tribune.

So if it is not published -- you may still find the idea of use.

I do wish you nothing but success and personal satisfaction as you undertake this awesome responsibility.

Cordially,



Morris B. Abram

Attachments

Dictated but not read