

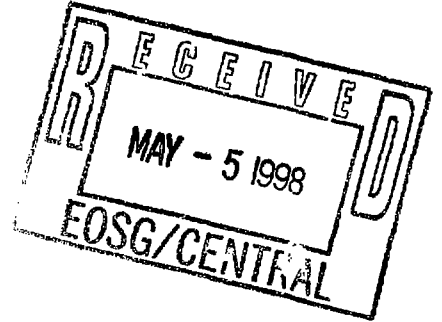


THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Misc Orgs "U"  
VIP "A"

MLW

23 April 1998



Dear Mr. Abram,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 9 April 1998 and the enclosed letters to Congressman Gilman and Senator Helms.

Your continued interest and support at this critical time is most appreciated. I am grateful for your efforts to inform congressional leaders of the need to resolve the matter of arrearages of United Nations dues.

With my thanks,

*and my best wishes  
to your dear wife*

Yours sincerely,

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Morris B. Abram  
Chairman  
United Nations Watch  
Geneva

981561



MORRIS B. ABRAM  
UNITED NATIONS WATCH  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman  
House Committee on International Relations  
2170 Rayburn House  
Washington, DC 20515-6128  
USA

1 April 1998

Dear Ben,

As you know from our correspondence and our meeting in the University Club several months ago, I as Chairman of UN Watch had many complaints about the operations of the UN under the stewardship of Boutros Boutros Ghali. Efforts to improve the employment practices with respect to women, to create a more efficient Secretariat and to treat all nations equally – all Charter principles – did not seem to interest Boutros Boutros Ghali.

The new Secretary-General Kofi Annan faces a huge task, and there is and will be much to criticize in the UN. That is why the input of the United States is critical.

Kofi Annan has faced up manfully to one of the glaring failures of the UN, to treat all nations equally, with the most conspicuous example being Israel. And there has been a great deal of anti-Semitism expressed in UN fora, of which I have kept you informed. I am now attaching a table which demonstrates that on many of the things we have asked Kofi Annan to do to try and eliminate the discriminatory treatment against Israel and to assist in the fight against anti-Semitism, he has responded positively and publicly.

By its nature, UN Watch must be a critic of the UN but it is not a UN basher. Indeed, there is a compelling reason for the UN, for there is no alternative.

Our position has always been that the United States should pay its past obligations to the UN as a matter of honor. That does not mean that we should not use “pocket-book diplomacy” with respect to future obligations. I see no reason why the United States should help pay six million dollars biennially for two special committees of the General Assembly and a large Secretariat devoted to Israel bashing.

April 1, 1998

I do hope Ben, that we can get this obligation behind us, for the world body works much better when the United States' influence is not curtailed by overdue obligations.

Cordially,



Morris B. Abram

, Encl.

MORRIS B. ABRAM  
UNITED NATIONS WATCH  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Senator Jesse Helms  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
SD - 403 Dirksen  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3310  
USA

6 April 1998

Dear Senator Helms,

UN Watch, founded in 1993 and operating through the full term of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, was a severe critic of that administration, measured against UN Watch's mission to judge UN performance by the yardstick of its Charter.

Our Board of directors includes Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, Ambassador Joseph Gildenhorn, Lane Kirkland, Per Ahlmark (former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden), Ambassador Max Jakobson of Finland (who but for Soviet veto would have become Secretary-General in 1972 instead of Waldheim.) We have been extremely critical of the failure of the organization to comply with three particular Charter provisions:

1. Appointments to the Secretariat with the paramount emphasis on "competence, efficiency and integrity," (instead of the present quota system.)
2. Equality of treatment of men and women
3. Equal treatment of all states "large or small."

I need not tell you of the United Nations' failure to comply with these foundation principles.

I have seen substantial changes in these areas since the election of Kofi Annan:

Three women have selected to head substantive posts: Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, as High Commissioner for Human Rights; Louise Fréchette, former Deputy Minister of Defense of Canada, as Deputy Secretary-General; and Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, as the head of the World Health Organization.

2

April 6, 1998

Quite aside from the break with the past on the appointments of women in high positions, these three women have been selected on merit and obviously without reference to geographical distribution.

Then, the battering that Israel has taken as a small besieged state, has drawn the following public statement by Secretary-General Kofi Annan (enclosed).

These statements are unprecedented.

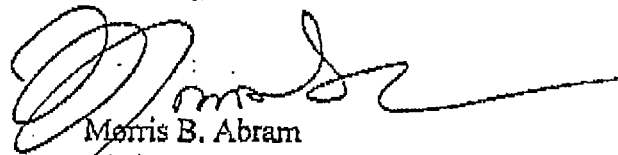
This brings me Sir, to the question of U.S. influence in the UN. Many may judge the significance of the UN through different optics, but there is one indisputable fact: in this interdependent world there is not now any alternative!

The UN will never be totally satisfactory, but without the United States it would be so much the worse. We need to be a major voice and play a critical role. Unfortunately I have seen a decline in U.S. influence as those already hostile to our values play on the theme of overdue debts.

I am in favor, Sir, of forward pocketbook diplomacy in many areas -- otherwise we do not have the appropriate say in promoting our values and interests. For example, we should not ever pay the six million dollars biannually spent for the two special Committees of the General Assembly and the section of the Secretariat whose sole existence is to bash Israel

However, as to past due obligations, I strongly believe the time has come to pay them in the hope and expectation that under Kofi Annan the UN will adhere more closely to Charter principles -- those that crusty old Senator Cordell Hull so fervently supported.

Sincerely,



Morris B. Abram  
Chairman UN Watch

Encl.

Exerpts of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's speech at the Israel Council on Foreign Relations

25 March 1998

Kofi Annan on 25<sup>th</sup> March in Israel was reported as addressing the disappointment of the international community with the progress of the peace talks, and directing some very critical language at Israel. Almost unreported was Kofi Annan's unprecedented statement from a Secretary-General about the discriminatory treatment of Israel in the United Nations and the anti-Semitism spoken from its platforms and elsewhere. These words were important not only as a statement of humane principles clearly embedded in the Charter, but as some explanation of the intransigence with which the international community views Israel's stance in implementing the Oslo Accords. In any event, the Secretary-General's words are worthy of deep reflection.

- "I know that Israelis see hypocrisy and double standards in the intense scrutiny given to some of its actions, while other situations fail to elicit the world's outrage and condemnations. I know that Israelis are offended when other nations' delegates leave the room as Israelis rise to speak. Abba Eban, one of the most eloquent and effective diplomats ever to grace the United Nations halls, was at one point so discouraged by events at the United Nations that he wrote, 'The world seemed to belong to our foes.'"
- "One way to write that new chapter would be to rectify an anomaly: Israel's position as the only Member State that is not a member of one of the regional groups, which means it has no chance of being elected to serve on main organs such as the Security Council or the Economic and Social Council. This anomaly should be corrected. We must uphold the principle of equality among all United Nations Member States."
- "Israelis were understandably enraged last year when Israel was accused in the Commission on Human Rights, which, as you know, is a body made up of Member States, of injecting Palestinian children with the AIDS virus. Such baseless allegations are totally unacceptable and deserve universal condemnation."
- "I know that the United Nations is regarded by many as biased against the State of Israel. I know that Israelis see hypocrisy and double standards in the intense scrutiny given to some of its actions, while other situations fail to elicit the world's outrage and condemnations."
- "Still, the broader fight against anti-Semitism must be addressed... We must use the occasion to denounce anti-Semitism in all of its manifestations. This brings me to the lamentable resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1975, equating Zionism with racism and racial discrimination. That was, perhaps, the low-point in our relations; its negative resonance even today is difficult to overestimate."

Kofi Annan has shown leadership. His words are based on Charter principles to which State Members are similarly pledged. If they, particularly the other democracies, heed the Secretary-General's counsel, the UN would be a more balanced, credible and effective organization.