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This profile does not reflect developments since 4 August 2004.

Kofi Atta ANNAN

GHANA

(Phonetic: AN-en)

Secretary General, UN (since 1997)

Addressed as: Mr. Secretary General



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In 2001, the UN General Assembly easily reelected Kofi Annan—the seventh secretary general in the UN’s more than 50-year history—to a second five-year term. That same year, Annan and the UN won the Nobel peace prize for being “preeminent in bringing new life to the organization.” A committed multilateralist, Annan often says that problems such as war, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, disease, economic inequality, and environmental concerns are “problems without borders” and should be addressed in international forums.

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Annan has the ability to focus on the issues at hand and on the interests of the UN rather than on his own prestige; his image is that of the consummate public servant.

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during his June 2004 trip to Sudan, he negotiated a humanitarian plan for refugees in the Darfur region despite strong resistance from various factions.

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Annan

Annan is an open and attentive interlocutor who stands up for what he believes

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An optimist and pragmatist with an excellent memory for details, media reports say that Annan has “mysterious” powers of persuasion.

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a facilitator who uses exquisite tact and courteous formality with foreign leaders. Annan is noticeably soft spoken, according to press reports.

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Annan says that he employs

Seeks Good Relations With Washington

Annan considers the United States the cornerstone of the UN and recognizes that he cannot afford bad relations with Washington,

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mindful to balance equities between Washington and other member states.

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he enjoys a close relationship with senior US officials, according to press reports.

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concentration, attentiveness, and creativity when negotiating, according to a press interview.

Straightforward approaches work well with Annan, but he does not respond well to relentless questioning by US officials, according to press reports.

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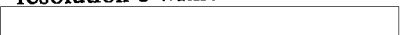

Views on Key Issues

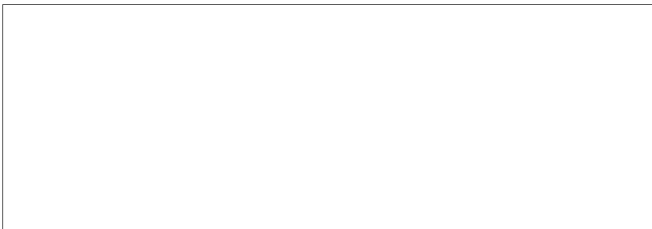


On Iraq, Annan has maintained that the UN should play a meaningful role in postwar reconstruction, but security concerns have prevented swift intervention. In July 2004, he commented that the UN required a dedicated force to protect UN facilities and personnel before a return to Baghdad, according to press reports.  (b)(3)

On human rights issues and the International Criminal Court, Annan has criticized specific US policies, and spoke out harshly against the US-sponsored UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution calling for a renewed exemption for US troops from the International Criminal Court. Annan's statements significantly contributed to the resolution's withdrawal from consideration,


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 showing Annan has the will and influence to stand up to the US on key issues.  (b)(3)



Career and Personal Data




Annan was born on 8 April 1938 near Kumasi in southern Ghana. As a child, Annan attended Ghana's oldest and most prestigious boarding school, where he won acclaim as a track-and-field star. Annan earned a degree in economics from Macalester College in Minnesota in 1961. He attended the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1962.  (b)(3)


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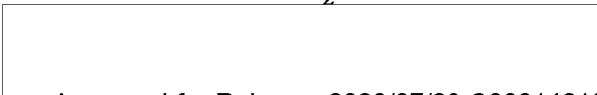
Annan began his UN career at the World Health Organization in 1962 as an administrative and budget officer. Annan left the UN in 1971 to earn a master's degree in management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Annan returned to Ghana in 1974 but rejoined the UN in 1976. He held a series of positions of increasing responsibility, including Assistant Secretary General for Human Resources Management and Security Coordinator for the UN System (1987-90); Assistant Secretary General for Program Planning, Budget and Finance, and Controller (1990-92); and Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations (1992-93), culminating in his appointment as Under Secretary for Peacekeeping Operations in 1993.  (b)(3)

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Annan enjoys hiking and dancing, according to press reports. He travels almost a third of every year. He does not have a computer in his office, according to press reports. Annan has an adult daughter, Ama, and an adult son, Kojo, from his first marriage. In 1984, Annan married Nane Lagergren, a lawyer and artist. The Annans participate in many social events and have become fixtures in New York society. Annan speaks excellent English, French, and several African languages, including Twi and Fante.  (b)(3)

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