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**Kofi Atta ANNAN**

(Phonetic: AN-en)

**GHANA**

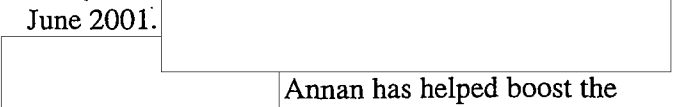

*Secretary General, United Nations (since 1997)*

*Addressed as: Mr. Secretary General* 

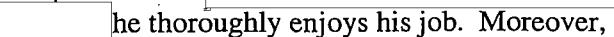

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The seventh UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan was overwhelmingly reelected to a second five-year term by the UN General Assembly in June 2001.


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 Annan has helped boost the prestige and influence of the UN since becoming its first black African secretary general. He and the UN were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 for their work for a "better organized and more peaceful world." A UN veteran of nearly 40 years, Annan was extremely honored to receive the peace award 

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 he thoroughly enjoys his job. Moreover, some commentators have suggested that Annan—universally respected throughout the entire UN system—may be the best Secretary General in the UN's more than 50-year history. 

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Annan's controversial stance on a variety of issues has made him a lightning rod for criticism from developed and developing countries alike but appear to have done little to tarnish his image as a selfless public servant or to dilute his international influence. 

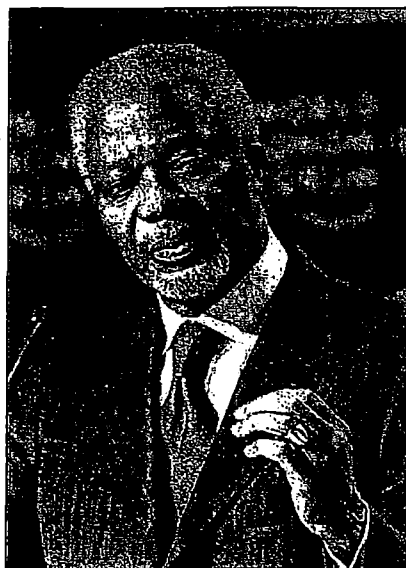
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**A Reticent Friend to Washington** 

Annan considers the United States the cornerstone of the UN and recognizes that he cannot afford bad relations. Although he worries about US unilateralism, to a large extent, he



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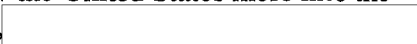
**An Abiding Legacy** 

 Annan will use the remainder of his time in office to pursue issues close to his heart. For example, he reportedly was instrumental in rescheduling the UN Conference on Children from fall to spring 2002 and getting the forum fully funded. The Secretary General also is a strong proponent of development in lesser developed countries and international efforts to eradicate poverty. He has made the battle against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases a personal crusade. Some critics have accused Annan of lacking a common touch because he is not often seen in public with ordinary people. 

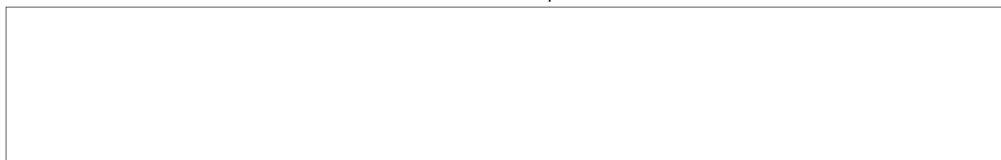
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 he spends a great deal of time visiting schools, hospitals, and other such facilities. 

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shares US views about how the UN should deal with the challenges facing the world, and he wants to draw the United States more into the UN's culture. 

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equities between Washington and other member states [Redacted]

[Redacted] US rejection of arms control and environmental treaties and the recent imbroglio over the International Criminal Court have frustrated the Secretary General and are making it more difficult for him to support US management and reform initiatives for the UN or to weigh in on Washington's side on controversial issues.

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**Staying the Course on Reform** [Redacted]

Annan has publicly stated that UN reform is one of his top priorities. He stripped much of the fat from the UN Secretariat during his first term by cutting personnel and streamlining the organization. He will continue to press for additional reforms throughout the remainder of his term. [Redacted] Annan is also concerned about attempts by some delegations to micromanagement of UN Secretariat affairs and his limited ability to reallocate UN resources. To counterbalance these negatives, he has brought in dynamic new personalities from both the government and the private sector to fill key leadership positions and supports a results-based orientation for the UN's organizations. [Redacted]

**On a Personal Note** [Redacted]

Annan was born a twin on 8 April 1938 near Kumasi, Ghana. He has studied at the University of Science and Technology in Ghana (1958-59), Macalester College in Minnesota (1959-61), B.A. in Economics; the International Institute of Higher Studies in Switzerland (1961-62), postgraduate studies in Economics, and the Sloan School of Management at MIT (1971-72), Master

**Career Highlights** [Redacted]

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- 1962 Began UN career, WHO, Geneva.
- 1965-71 Administrative officer, then chief of personnel section, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa.
- 1974-76 Left UN and managed government-owned Ghana Tourist Development Company.
- 1976-80 Returned to UN as deputy chief of staff services, Office of Personnel Services.
- 1980-84 Deputy director of administration directorate, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva.
- 1984-86 Director of the budget, UN Office of Financial Services.
- 1986-90 Assistant secretary general for human resources management.
- 1990-92 UN comptroller and director, Office of Program, Planning, Budget, and Finance.
- 1992-93 Assistant secretary general, Office of Peacekeeping Operations.
- 1993-96 Director, Department for Peacekeeping Operations. [Redacted]

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of Science in Management. Annan speaks excellent English, French, and several African languages, including Twi and Fante. His first marriage to a Nigerian ended in divorce. In 1984, Annan married Nane Lagergren, a Swedish national, who is the niece of Raoul Wallenberg. The couple has three adult children from previous marriages. [Redacted]

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