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This profile does not reflect developments since 19 August 2005.

**Kofi Atta ANNAN**

(Phonetic: AN-en)

**GHANA**

*UN Secretary General (since 1997)*

Addressed as: Mr. Secretary General



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Kofi Annan has embarked on an ambitious reform campaign in 2005 to mollify critics and to improve the UN's performance after a tumultuous year of accusations of mismanagement and corruption. Despite Annan's negative publicity in 2004 and 2005, he still seems to enjoy support from most UN member states, judging by press reports. At the 2001 UN General Assembly, Annan easily won a second five-year term and that same year won the Nobel peace prize for being "preeminent in bringing new life to the organization." He has served in the UN for more than 40 years, virtually all of his working life, and is the first secretary general elected from within the UN staff.

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**Annan's "Annus Horribilis"**

Annan marked 2004 as "annus horribilis" (horrible year) for himself and the UN, which brought heavy criticism over mismanagement of the Iraq Oil-for-Food (OFF) Program and allegations of sexual misconduct against UN peacekeepers in Africa. He also faced calls for his resignation during this period.

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**Building His Legacy**

Annan probably is most motivated to engage intensively on UN reform out of a desire to ensure a lasting legacy after his second term ends in December 2006.

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In January 2005, Annan responded to criticism of his management

*Seeking Good Relations With Washington*

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

is mindful to balance equities between Washington and other member states.

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practices by initiating high-level discussions within the UN Secretariat to address management transparency and accountability, according to press reports

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Annan also is motivated by his desire to implement his vision for the UN in the 21st century, which he highlighted in his 2001 Nobel acceptance speech. Recognizing the current importance of the UN in international affairs, Annan probably wants the organization to retain its prominence while

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[Redacted]

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becoming more effective in the future. To this end Annan has met with numerous foreign leaders to push his reform goals since he presented his plan to the UN General Assembly in March 2005. In particular, Annan is seeking to expand the UN Security Council, reform the UN Human Rights Commission, and create a UN Peacebuilding Commission. [Redacted]

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**Dealing With Annan** [Redacted]

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Annan is an open and attentive interlocutor who stands up for what he believes and is no pushover,

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[Redacted] a facilitator who uses exquisite tact and courteous formality with foreign leaders. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Annan says he tackles negotiations with concentration, attentiveness, and creativity, according to a press interview. Straightforward approaches work well with Annan, [Redacted] but he does not respond well to relentless questioning by US officials, according to press reports. [Redacted]

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Fiercely protective of the UN's—and his own—reputation, Annan has occasionally blamed UN member states, including countries on the Security Council, for UN shortcomings, according to press reports [Redacted] In the cases of the peacekeeping disasters in Rwanda (1994) and Srebrenica (1995) while he was Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping, Annan chided Security Council members for giving peacekeeping forces ambitious mandates without equivalent authorizations for the use of force. [Redacted]

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**Career and Personal Data** [Redacted]

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Annan was born on 8 April 1938 near Kumasi in southern Ghana. As a child, he 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. [Redacted]

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Annan began his UN career at the WHO in 1962 as an administrative and budget officer. He left the UN in 1971 to earn a master's degree in management at MIT. He returned to Ghana in 1974 but rejoined the UN in 1976, holding a series of positions of increasing responsibility, including assistant secretary general for human resources management as well as security coordinator for the UN system (1987-90); assistant secretary general for program planning, budget and finance, and controller (1990-92); assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations (1992-93); and Under Secretary for Peacekeeping Operations (1993-97).

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Annan enjoys hiking and dancing, according to press reports. He travels almost a third of every year. Annan has a daughter, Ama, and a son, Kojo, from his first marriage. In 1984, Annan married his second wife, Nane Lagergren, a lawyer and artist. He speaks excellent English and French as well as several African languages, including Twi and Fante. [Redacted]

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