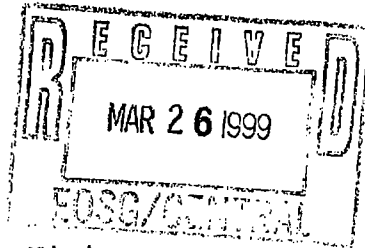




THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

HR/Cambodia

17 March 1999

Dear Sir Ninian,

It is with great interest and appreciation that I have read the report of the Group of Experts for Cambodia which you submitted to me on 22 February 1999. I congratulate you and the members of the Group for the high quality of the report, its comprehensiveness, the depth of legal analysis and, most importantly, its contribution to the international debate on impunity and accountability in Cambodia.

I have, today, submitted the report to both the General Assembly and the Security Council in view of the fact that the implementation of the recommendation for the establishment of an ad-hoc international tribunal calls for action by either or both organs. As you may know, on 12 March 1999, I met with the Foreign Minister of Cambodia who informed me of his Government's decision to try Ta-Mok, and him alone, before a Cambodian court under Cambodian law. In my transmittal letter to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, therefore, I expressed my firm view that the trial of a single Khmer Rouge military leader would not serve the cause of justice and accountability, and that the Khmer Rouge leaders responsible for the most serious of crimes should be brought to trial before a tribunal of an international character. Only a process of judicial accountability of that nature, will meet in this particular context the minimum standards of justice, fairness and due process of law.

Sir Ninian Stephen  
Melbourne

In the coming weeks, the conclusions and recommendations that you have made will be scrutinized by the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is my hope that the solution that will ensue will bring an end to decades of impunity, and respond to the long quest for justice by the Cambodian people and the international community at large.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kofi A. Annan