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LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following the coup d'état of 21 October 1993 in Burundi and the tragic events that ensued, the Security Council called for the establishment of a political presence in the country, as a confidence-building measure, to facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule and to promote peace and reconciliation. Accordingly, the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB) was established in October 1993.

As I indicated in my letter of 11 November 1998 to the Security Council (S/1998/1084), UNOB has enabled the United Nations to support the peace process by helping the efforts to build the internal political partnership and by creating an enabling environment for the parties to negotiate in good faith at Arusha.

On 15 April 1999, I informed the Security Council that the peace process in Burundi had entered a critical stage and that I had therefore decided to upgrade the level of UNOB by appointing the Head of the Office as my Representative in Burundi (S/1999/425). The Security Council concurred with my decision (S/1999/426).

The peace process was expected to culminate in the conclusion of a general peace agreement in Arusha by the end of 1999. It appears likely that this will not happen and that peace efforts will continue in the year 2000. Once a peace agreement is reached, there will be a need for UNOB to undertake additional responsibilities in the post-conflict peace-building phase to help in the consolidation of peace and security. This will entail assisting in the implementation of the peace agreement and the establishment of new institutions as well as providing support for the various reforms envisaged in the agreement.

For these reasons, it is my intention to extend the United Nations political presence in Burundi until the end of December 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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