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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) of 18 June 1999 concerning the difference between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by which, inter alia, the Council requested me to keep it informed on the progress of further efforts under my auspices.

By a letter dated 13 September 1995 my predecessor transmitted the interim accord (S/1995/794) to the members of the Security Council. As you and your colleagues are aware, in article 5 of the interim accord, the parties agreed to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General, pursuant to resolution 845 (1993). You will also recall that, by a letter dated 10 November 1997 (S/1997/890), I conveyed to the Council my decision to appoint Mr. Matthew Nimetz as deputy to my Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance. Negotiations between the parties under my good offices have continued, with the most recent meeting on 6 December 1999.

My Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, has informed me of his resignation from his position for personal reasons. I have accepted his resignation with great reluctance, and wish to pay tribute to him for his untiring efforts and invaluable service to the United Nations. I will certainly miss the benefit of his wise counsel and his tenacity and graciousness in dealing with this very delicate issue.

In light of Mr. Vance's resignation, and with the consent of the parties, I have decided to appoint his deputy Mr. Matthew Nimetz, a national of the United States of America, as his replacement and my Personal Envoy. As you are aware, Mr. Nimetz has been involved in the negotiation process since March 1994 and has chaired the continuing talks between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since November 1997.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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