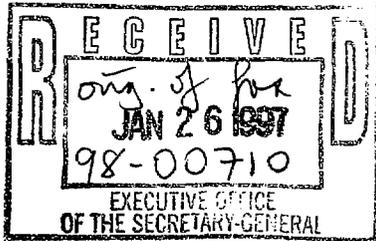


Rec'd from SB on 24/1/98 PC LUIP/Aga Khan
ODCP

Pro → DZ 15/1/98



Do prepare a response
in consultation with WIFE
UNDCP - Kante



Aiglemont
60270 Gouvilleux, France

24/1/98

The 14th of January 1998

Your Excellency,



Please let me, at the beginning of this letter, extend to you my warmest greetings and best wishes for the New Year. I hope that 1998 will be a prosperous and fulfilling year for Your Excellency's challenges at the United Nations.

I was pleased to receive the letter dated December 11th in which Your Excellency kindly shared with me concerns of the United Nations about the illicit production, trafficking and consumption of drugs. For all clear thinking individuals, wherever they may be, the world's drug problem must remain a matter of permanent concern.

With the density of the Ismaili population in Gorno-Badakhshan, in Afghan Badakhshan, in Chitral and Hunza and elsewhere in South West Asia and Africa, the leaders of the Ismaili Community, its institutions and I, as the Imam, must be particularly concerned with this aggressive and damaging problem. Your Excellency may be aware that we have sought to assist the Russian Borderguards to enhance their effectiveness in their drug control measures in Gorno-Badakhshan, but we have reached the conclusion that these steps should be reinforced through closer collaboration and action with the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Governments of the five Central Asian Republics, as well as with the Afghan leaders who control North-east

S-O OFFICE

#14 26 Jan

Afghanistan. I am happy to say that insofar as I have been able to address this problem with these leaders, there has been consensus that more needs to be done, and I was pleased to note their willingness to be associated with further initiatives.

To attain the desired objectives, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) signed a global Co-operation Agreement with UNDCP last May which led to the co-sponsorship of an international conference in Moscow last September relating to drug control measures in the Russian Federation. On the 16th of this month in Almaty, AKDN will become a co-signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-regional Drug Control Co-operation between UNDCP and the Governments of the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In fostering these alliances our objectives are two-fold: the first is to make available resources and to bring to bare whatever influence we have on the governments and local authorities in our areas of primary concern, to ensure not only that more effective drug control procedures are taken, but also to address the longer term issue of substituting drug producing crops by different sources of economic livelihood.

Our second objective is to introduce into all our own specific development agencies and programmes more regular and effective steps to ensure that our initiatives, and everyone connected with them, are as free as we can achieve of any involvement whatsoever in the narcotics business.

The Aga Khan Development Network is also actively engaged in providing humanitarian as well as development assistance to the Ismaili Community and others who are at greatest risk in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to contribute to the longer term economic rehabilitation of these areas.

Oversight of all these activities, and much more so my responsibilities as the Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims regrettably make it difficult for me to become an active member of the Comité des Sages proposed by Your Excellency. I would, however, welcome any

suggestions from Your Excellency as to how AKDN can contribute towards the objectives of the Comité.

I applaud Your Excellency's decision to establish the Comité des Sages. Your determination to give higher priority to the problem of drug control, with the full backing of the office of the Secretary-General, adds a new dimension and fresh vigour to the existing initiatives of the UNDCP.

*With my warm personal regards and highest
esteem,*

*Yours sincerely,
Aga Khan.*

H.E. Mr. Kofi A. Annan
The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

at.