

**General Assembly**

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Agenda item 10

**Report of the Secretary-General on
the work of the Organization****Letter dated 16 December 2003 from the Permanent
Representative of India to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement adopted by the National Convention dedicated to World Peace and Non-Violence, jointly convened by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhaven Worldwide and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, on 26 April 2003, in New Delhi (see annex). The National Convention was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. R. Venkataraman, former President of India.

In view of the universal message contained in the statement, I should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10 (Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization).

(Signed) V. K. Nambiar

Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement adopted by the National Convention dedicated to World Peace and Non-Violence

The National Convention dedicated to World Peace and Non-Violence, organized by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Worldwide and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti is deeply distressed at the erosion of the authority of the United Nations, particularly in the area of maintenance of international peace and security, and at the resort to unilateral armed conflicts.

Deeply moved by the death, devastation, misery and sorrow caused by the two World Wars in our lifetime, the United Nations was established to “save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. Chastened by the experience gained by the failure of the League of Nations, which proved ineffective on various occasions, the framers of the Charter of the United Nations conferred on the Security Council “primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security”.

In exercise of these powers the United Nations has, in the past, appointed, inter alia: a mediator for Palestine; peacekeeping forces during the Suez crisis and later in the Congo; peacekeeping operations in West Iran (New Guinea) and Cyprus; and peace-building operations in Cambodia. Regrettably, today, due to the erosion of the authority of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations, spurts of armed conflict take place. Unless the world community wakes up to the situation, world peace may be seriously threatened.

This Convention, therefore, calls upon:

1. The Member States of the United Nations to strictly abide by the provisions of the Charter and to strengthen the authority of the United Nations, particularly in maintaining international peace and security;
2. The international community, in particular the civil society, to mobilize public opinion in support of the United Nations.

This Convention urges the United Nations to ensure that the post-war reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration of democracy in Iraq is done under its aegis, authority and control. The United Nations must be authorized to conduct, under its supervision, free and fair elections to install a democratically elected government in Iraq. During the interim period, while elections are being organized, the United Nations should be put in charge of the administration of Iraq.

The Convention supports the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and requests the world community to donate generously to the fund for humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq.

One of the extraordinary achievements of the twentieth century was the total decolonization of subject countries by voluntary transfer of power through the United Nations efforts. Nothing should be done to revert any country to colonial status by conquest or otherwise. World opinion should be vigilant against any such retrograde step.

(Signed) K. D. **Gangrade**
Co-Chairman

(Signed) R. **Venkataraman**
Chairman
