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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

Letter dated 31 July 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith an additional report on the observance of the International Year of Peace in Indonesia (see annex).

The present report is an elaboration of the previous one on the national activities contained in document A/41/661, dated 30 September 1986.

We would be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 26 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ali ALATAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/42/150.

ANNEX

Observance of the United Nations International Year
of Peace in Indonesia

1. The realization of just and lasting universal peace has always been a primary goal of the Indonesian Government, as is clearly reflected in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which, inter alia, states that the State should contribute to the maintenance of a world order which is based upon independence, universal peace and social justice. The designation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace was, therefore, welcomed by the Indonesian Government and people with great enthusiasm.
2. In order to co-ordinate the activities, a National Committee for the International Year of Peace was established by Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 1986. The Committee was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and comprised representatives of several government agencies, leaders from influential non-governmental organizations, and respected scholars of the Indonesian academic community.
3. The activities undertaken during the Year were designed to attract participants from all walks of life, with particular focus on the involvement of the youth, who, as guardians of the country's future, must understand and nurture a desire for peace and harmony in their relations with others.
4. Following is a summary of activities undertaken throughout the country:
 - (a) In conjunction with World Environment Day on 5 June 1986, commemorated under the theme "Environment and Peace", the Indonesian Government called upon all agencies, organizations and schools in Indonesia, as well as all representative offices abroad, to give concrete significance to the event by planting a "tree of peace". This symbolic gesture was to demonstrate humankind's desire to preserve the environment and, in the spirit of the International Year of Peace, to devote his or her time and efforts to protecting and fostering life and the world surrounding him.
 - (b) A series of national poetry, essay-writing, and photography competitions was held throughout Indonesia, portraying the theme consistent with the spirit of the International Year of Peace. The planning and implementation of these competitions were co-ordinated by the Government in close co-operation with the United Nations Information Centre at Jakarta and a number of non-governmental bodies, such as the Indonesian United Nations Association, the Indonesian Journalist Association (PWI), the Indonesian Photographers Association, the Indonesian Teachers Association (PGRI), the Indonesian Committee for Religion and Peace and the IDAYU Foundation (a non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding of Indonesian history). The IDAYU Foundation and the other sponsoring organizations donated trophies, savings accounts, cameras and typewriters to be given to the winners. Presentation of the awards took place at

the Information Centre at Jakarta, and was attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Information.

(c) Indonesia also participated in the First Earth Run, a programme that was co-sponsored by UNICEF, in which runners from many countries relayed "the Torch of Peace", around the globe. The Torch was lit at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 16 September 1986. Eventually visiting 46 countries, the Torch of Peace traversed Indonesia from 19 to 25 November, and upon arrival at the capital city of Jakarta, it was received at the presidential palace in a ceremony attended by President Soeharto, members of the Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps. The Torch of Peace, after completing a 1,400 km journey through Java island in seven days, the longest in any one country, arrived in Bali where the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as Chairman of the National Committee for the International Year of Peace, presided over departure ceremonies. Throughout the course, the runners were enthusiastically greeted by the people of Indonesia and were received by the governors and mayors of the provinces and towns through which they passed. The presentation of awards by the runners to the winners of the "cleanest village" contest during their run throughout the route highlighted the ecology aspect of the programme.

(d) The Department of Tourism, Post and Telecommunications issued a series of commemorative stamps on the International Year of Peace. The first day issue was valued at Rp 1,000 with the remaining series issued at Rp 500 and Rp 350 denominations.

(e) A minute of silence for peace was observed during the monthly flag-hoisting ceremony on 17 December 1986, by every department and government agency. Schools and universities were requested to conduct a similar observation during their monthly flag-hoisting ceremonies.

(f) Within the Programme, the National Committee and the Department of Foreign Affairs had organized a series of lectures and discussions at universities in several provinces of Indonesia, with a view to disseminating information on the relationship between disarmament, peace and development, particularly with regard to developing countries. Most of these lectures and discussions were scheduled to coincide with the arrival of the Torch of Peace in Indonesia in November 1986, and continued throughout February 1987.

(g) A series of television programmes addressing the significance of the International Year of Peace and the activities of the United Nations were produced. These were done in co-operation with the Indonesian-United Nations Friendship Association and other non-governmental organizations. The programmes were televised nation-wide.

Evaluation

5. The enthusiastic participation of the Indonesian people in the many activities that were held throughout the country in commemoration of the International Year of Peace was beyond expectation.

6. The co-operation between the central and provincial governments, working together with non-governmental organizations and supported by the people in general, facilitated the implementation of the programme.

7. The public's interest, expressed through mass participation, was a manifestation of the Indonesian people's strong aspiration and spirit for universal peace and respect for life.
