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SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS KENZO OSHIMA OF JAPAN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR

The following statement was issued today by the Office of the Spokesman for Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

The Secretary-General has decided to appoint Kenzo Oshima (Japan) as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, effective mid-January 2001. Mr. Oshima will succeed Sergio Vieira de Mello, who will continue his assignment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General in East Timor.

Mr. Oshima is currently serving as Secretary-General of the Secretariat for International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, in the Office of the Prime Minister of Japan. In this position, he is responsible for Japan's humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance programmes. He has had a long and distinguished career in international affairs, both in Japan and in postings in France, India, Australia and here in New York at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

Mr. Oshima, who was born in 1943, is a graduate in law from the University of Tokyo.

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