

12 October 2001

**Statement of H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo,
President of the 56th Session of the General Assembly,
on the Occasion of the Winning of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize**

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations, on behalf of the whole UN membership, to our own Organization, the United Nations, and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan on their winning of the Nobel Peace Prize this year. This is a well-deserved honor for all the Member States of the United Nations as well as for the entire staff of the Secretariat.

As members of the United Nations family, we all feel proud that during the last half century the United Nations has always been at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security as well as the prosperity and development of mankind. This Prize is a recognition of not only the achievements of the United Nations in serving the world community but also of that of the thousands of UN staff members led by the Secretary-General who work with such dedication and often in perilous circumstances to make this world a better and safer place. At the same time, I believe this award will serve to encourage all of us to make further efforts to accomplish our mandates for humanity.

This Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the United Nations and Secretary-General Kofi Annan is most fitting as we are facing formidable challenges such as poverty, terrorism, drug abuse, environmental degradation, and HIV/AIDS.

My special and warmest congratulations go to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in particular. I truly believe that all of us in the United Nations owe him a large debt of gratitude for his outstanding leadership and services at this critical time in history, of which the Nobel Peace Prize is a most fitting and timely recognition.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the international community will view this award not just as recognition of past achievement but, more importantly as a beacon illuminating the way forward for the United Nations as it rises to confront new challenges.

Thank you.