

United Nations General Assembly report of the  
Fiftyâ\200\224Second Session,.Agenda item.146(b), dated 15  
October 1997.

#### ISSUE

Invitation to the Ni-\202nister of Fbreign.Affairs to  
participate in the Hague.Appeal for Peace Conference  
in The Hague.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recemmeded that the Minister indicate whether  
he would be willing to attend the conference which  
will be held fram 11 - 15 May 1999 in The Hague.

#### BACKGROUND

The Organizing Committee for the Hague Appeal for  
Peace has invited South.Africa to participate in its  
end-of-theâ\200\224century conference which will be held from  
11 â\200\224 15 May 1999 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The Conference will be the first in a series of such  
conferences.

The Conference is also timed to coincide  
with the hundredth anniversary of the First Hague  
International Peace Conference.

The Conference will bring together a wide range of  
initiatives, citizens and organizations to develop  
substantive global strategies for the reduction of  
conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Conference will address the same three issues that  
were set at the first International Peace Conference

of 1899, updated to address contemporary conditions.

They are:

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strengthening humanitarian law and institutions;

the armament question; land

the peaceful settlement of disputes, including

conflict prevention and peace building.

In addition to these three topics, emphasis will be placed on the "root causes of war" and "advancing a global culture of peace".

The overall goals of the

conference are to -

(a)

assess the successes and failures during the last

(b)

(c)

(d)

century;

identify the lacunae;

present proposals for the next step;

and

develop strategies, coalitions and timelines for

progressing forward.

All the proposals and strategies are to be merged into "The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century".

UN General Assembly resolutions 51/159 and 52/154 note the work of the many governments which comprise the "Friends of 1999" convened by the Russian Federation and the Netherlands.

The resolutions encourage

competent United Nations organs, programmes and

specialized agencies, the Secretariat, as well as

other international organizations and treaty

monitoring bodies to cooperate and consider  
participating in the conferences and the activities  
focusing on the Hague themes.

The Department will soon be giving attention, in consultation with other departments, to the establishment of a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law, which impacts on the subject of this conference.



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STATUS

SUBJECT

MR DR.MÂ@LONYANA.

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6 NOVEMBER 1998

FOR.ATTENTION PLEASE

SA.PARIICIPAIIGN IN THE HAGUE.APPEAL  
FOR PEACE CONEERENCE IN'THE HAGUE, THE  
NETHERLANDsedN 11 â\200\224 15 MAX 1999

Letter fram Mr William R Pace, Secretary-General of  
the Organizing Committee for the Hague Appeal for  
Peace 1999 to the Nî-\202nister of Fbreign.Affairs, dated  
22 September 1998.

Background document on the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999.

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