

January 27, 1987

Letter, Ben Sanders to Mohamed Shaker

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Summary:

Request to Mohamed Shaker, Egyptian Ambassador to Austria, to participate in the PPNN now that funding has been secured.

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27 January 1987

Dear Mohamed,

I am touched by the things you said in your letter of 19 January. To me, what has been most gratifying in my work at the United Nations has been the professional contact with a number of people which has grown into personal appreciation and friendship. Your letter helps to make me feel that it has all been very much worthwhile.

I hope indeed that we shall be able to go on working together. You will perhaps remember that we talked about suggestions for ways of improving the chances of success for the next NPT Review Conferences by promoting among those likely to be involved a greater interest in, and awareness of, various aspects of the nuclear (non-) proliferation question. The suggestion was based on the idea that it would be most useful if the relatively small group of people acquainted with the manifold aspects of the issue of nuclear non-proliferation were to share their joint experience with the new generation of people called upon to deal with that issue in government, parliament, academic life and in the press.

That suggestion has now taken more definite shape. Several private organizations have been found willing to contribute funds and practical arrangements are being made. I attach a summary of the programme envisaged, as submitted to various potential funding organizations. As you see, the programme revolves around the activities of a "core group" of about fifteen high-level experts in various aspects of the subject, whose functions are described in Section 3 of the attachment. Section 5 contains suggestions for the membership of the core group. While most of the persons listed have let me know that they would be willing to participate, it has been made clear that not all those mentioned had yet seen the programme nor promised to take part.

The purpose of this letter is to tell you that we have already obtained sufficient finance to underwrite the initial phase of the programme, and propose to start work on it from 1 March, by which time we believe that more than half the necessary funding will be secure. We wish, therefore, to ask you if you would be willing and able to participate in the programme as a member of the core group. Work is already underway to organize an initial meeting of the group in the British Channel Islands in the late spring of this

His Excellency
Ambassador Dr. Mohamed I. Shaker
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Vienna
AUSTRIA

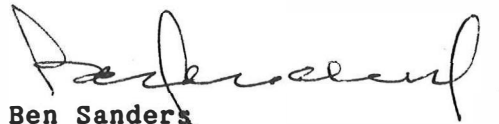
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year, either from 14 to 17 May or 11 to 14 June. Costs of your travel and accommodation will be defrayed from project funds. If funds permit, members of the group will also receive an annual stipend of \$1,000.

Obviously, the programme would benefit immensely from your participation, and I sincerely hope that you will see your way clear to accepting this invitation. To assist our planning, a very early indication of whether you would be available on the above dates would be most helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Sanders

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