



Unofficial translation from the Ukrainian

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

*11 August 1998, Kyiv*

Esteemed Mr. Secretary-General,

I am thankful for your letter of 26 June 1998 with the enclosed *Youth Charter for a Twenty-First Century Free of Drugs and Vision from Banff*.

The problem of narcotics which you raised is one of the most serious challenges to the contemporary society. The need to actively resist it necessitates the consolidation of efforts of the whole world community. The resolute intention of the international community to fight without mercy against this terrible phenomenon has been once again reaffirmed during the recent Special session of the UN General Assembly.

Therefore it is good to see that the young generation is indifferent to one of the horrible social evils of this century. It is commendable, that the youth joins, more and more actively, the process of overcoming it, by taking the initiative into its own hands.

Children and youth foras in Paris and Banff have become the bright evidence of it, and believe that these initiatives deserve every support and further promotion from our side.

His Excellency  
Mr. Kofi Annan  
Secretary General  
of the United Nations

New York

In Ukraine, special attention is being given to the solution of the problem of drug addiction, first of all among children and teenagers.

I would like to remind that we have done a lot in this way. Among other things, the Concept of Monitoring Trafficking of Drugs was adopted, the Coordinating Council on Combating Drug Abuse was established, and the National Programme to Counter Illegal Drug Trafficking and Their Abuse was approved.

The introduction of effective state mechanism to counter the drug crime and drug addiction remains as our major priority.

At the same time, I wish to assure You that Ukraine will continue to contribute to the solution of the drugs problem in the framework of efforts of the international community. In the first hand, it concerns the conscientious implementation of decisions adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Special session of the UN General Assembly which propose a new strategy of combating the illicit drug trafficking, and lay down the secure grounds for the further strengthening of the effectiveness of international cooperation in this field in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

With best wishes,

(signed)

Leonid Kuchma