



# Judicial Watch

*Because no one is above the law!*

March 1, 2005

**VIA FEDEX & FACSIMILE (212-963-2155)**

His Excellency Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary-General  
The United Nations Secretariat  
One United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

**Re: Disclosure of Records Concerning UN Special Envoy Bill Clinton**

Your Excellency:

Judicial Watch, Inc. is an internationally known public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption. Judicial Watch was founded in 1994 with the mission of promoting and restoring ethics and morality in the United States government and legal systems. As part of that mission Judicial Watch is a leader, with 600,000 supporters, in fighting for transparency, integrity and accountability in government, law and politics.

Judicial Watch makes active use of open records and open meetings laws in order to educate the public concerning the operations of government and to hold public officials accountable for their actions. For example, in the United States, the federal government is governed by the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") 5 U.S.C. §552. Each of the nation's 50 sovereign states, the District of Columbia, as well as U.S. territories and possessions has their own laws governing public records and meetings. As you know, the international community has followed the U.S. precedent, with many national governments and large international public policy organizations adopting legislation and practices similar the U.S. FOIA law. Of note, just this past January, the United Kingdom enacted its own Freedom of Information Act in a move seen broadly as a victory for transparency, integrity and accountability in government.

While, to our knowledge, the United Nations has no such comparable open records or open meeting laws, we are writing to make a request of your offices on behalf of the public interest in transparency – that we believe is consistent with your stated commitments to democratic principles, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

**His Excellency Kofi A. Annan**

**Re: Disclosure of Records Concerning UN Special Envoy Bill Clinton**

**March 1, 2005**

**Page 2 of 3**

According to news reports, you have selected former President Bill Clinton to be your special envoy for the countries affected by the tsunami in southern Asia.<sup>1</sup> You have been quoted, with respect to Mr. Clinton, as saying you believed that "no one could possibly be better qualified for this task."

Judicial Watch requests that you produce all records detailing Mr. William J. Clinton's appointment as your special envoy. Our request includes any and all: contract(s), memorandum(a) of understanding, commission(s), appointment(s), credential(s), and expense reports.

For the purpose of this request, the term "record" shall mean: (1) any written, printed, or typed material of any kind, including without limitation all correspondence, memoranda, notes, messages, letters, cards, telegrams, teletypes, facsimiles, papers, forms, records, telephone messages, diaries, schedules, calendars, chronological data, minutes, books, reports, charts, lists, ledgers, invoices, printed matter, worksheets, receipts, returns, computer printouts, prospectuses, statements, checks, statistics, surveys, affidavits, contracts, agreements, transcripts, magazine or newspaper articles, or press releases; (2) any electronically, magnetically, or mechanically stored material of any kind, including without limitation all electronic mail or e-mail, meaning any electronically transmitted text or graphic communication created upon and transmitted or received by any computer or other electronic device, and all materials stored on compact disk, computer disk, diskette, hard drive, server, or tape; (3) any audio, aural, visual, or video records, recordings, or representations of any kind, including without limitation all cassette tapes, compact disks, digital video disks, microfiche, microfilm, motion pictures, pictures, photographs, or videotapes; (4) any graphic materials and data compilations from which information can be obtained; (5) any materials using other means of preserving thought or expression; and (6) any tangible things from which data or information can be obtained, processed, recorded, or transcribed. The term "record" also shall mean any drafts, alterations, amendments, changes, or modifications of or to any of the foregoing.

Given the documented pattern of fraud, kick-backs and corruption in the so-called "UN Oil-for-Food scandal;" increasing allegations of tsunami relief misappropriation and fraud; and Mr. Clinton's well documented violations of law and ethical lapses -- it is imperative that you produce all of the requested documents in order to allay any concerns that your offices, the UN or Mr. Clinton's activities are less than lawful.

Please respond to this request and begin producing documents by Tuesday, March 29, 2005.

---

<sup>1</sup>Walter Hoge, "Annan Chooses Clinton as Tsunami Relief Envoy," *The New York Times*, February 3, 2005 (Attached).

**His Excellency Kofi A. Annan**

**Re: Disclosure of Records Concerning UN Special Envoy Bill Clinton**

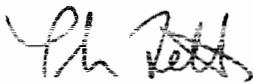
**March 1, 2005**

**Page 3 of 3**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.



Thomas Fitton  
President

## Annan chooses Clinton as tsunami relief envoy

By Warren Hoge The New York Times  
Thursday, February 3, 2005

**UNITED NATIONS, New York** Secretary General Kofi Annan has selected former President Bill Clinton to be his special envoy for the countries affected by the tsunami in southern Asia.

Annan's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said Tuesday that Annan is confident that Clinton will bring "energy, dynamism and focus to the task of sustaining world interest in the vital recovery and reconstruction phase following the tsunami disaster that hit South Asia on Dec. 26."

In a statement from his New York office, Clinton said he looked forward to taking up the post on his return from a trip to the region later this month with former President George H.W. Bush.

The two men, at the request of President George W. Bush, have been making appearances as representatives of a nongovernmental fund-raising campaign in the United States for tsunami relief.

UN diplomats had been expressing concern in recent days that the unprecedented international relief response to the tsunami might be lagging now that media focus was moving on.

In a plea to the General Assembly on Friday, Mark Malloch Brown, Annan's new chief of staff, said, "Please, please, as the cameras start to go away, sustain your interest and commitment in rebuilding, even as this terrible disaster leaves the headlines."

Referring to this remark in his statement on Clinton, Annan said he believed that "no one could possibly be better qualified for this task."

Clinton's role is expected to last two years. Jan Egeland, the UN emergency relief coordinator, will retain operational responsibilities for the recovery and rebuilding period, which Annan has estimated could last a decade.

Eckhard said it was likely Clinton would be called on to help settle longtime disputes between the governments and rebels in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

"I think one of the things the secretary general hopes the envoy could do would be to facilitate peace negotiations in both those cases," Eckhard said. He added that solutions might be more easily reached now because of the unifying experience of shared tragedy.

Officials said that the appointment had the approval of Bush but that details of Clinton's responsibilities at the United Nations, an organization that has had difficult relations with the administration, had still to be defined.

Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Clinton and an outspoken supporter of Annan, said that "by choosing a world figure with such enormous public appeal in India and Southeast Asia," Annan had "guaranteed continued attention to the tsunami aftermath" and demonstrated that he was going to be a "very active secretary general" in the last two years of his tenure.

[See more of the world that matters - click here for home delivery of the International Herald Tribune.](#)

[< < Back to Start of Article](#)