



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 July 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene a Special Event commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United States President John F. Kennedy's historic last address at the United Nations (UN). This event will be held on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the Trusteeship Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Conference Building, UN Headquarters from 15:00 p.m. until 18:00 p.m.

President Kennedy devoted much of the last year of his Presidency to the improving relations between the United States and the Soviet Union in the midst of the Cold War. The world owes much to his peace initiative, the groundwork at which was laid with Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and ultimately produced the nuclear agreements that followed, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968. Kennedy spent the last months of his life working to persuade his countrymen and the world, along with his Soviet counterpart Nikita Khrushchev, that peace was achievable.

His speech to the General Assembly of 20 September 1963 represented the clearest articulation of what he sought to accomplish, as he appealed to his fellow world leaders to recognize that "The task of building the peace lies with the leaders of every nation, large and small".

President Kennedy's words on that occasion remain powerful today, as we continue to engage in the hard work of problem-solving for peace and development. This Special Event will provide a unique opportunity to honor Kennedy's legacy and reflect on its relevance and lessons for our time.

I am pleased to inform that I am organizing this Event in partnership with Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University's Earth Institute and Special Advisor to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, whose most recent book *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* traces this remarkable story.

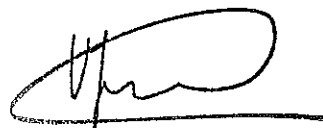
All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all Member and Observer States to attend the Special Event at the highest possible level. It is my hope that the Special Event will provide an opportunity for all of us to benefit from the wide range of knowledge and expertise.

A detailed program will be distributed in due course. Updated information about the Event will be available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

For further details on this event, please contact Mr. Siphon Seakamela (212 963 0991/[seakamela@un.org](mailto:seakamela@un.org)).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vuk Jeremic', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Vuk Jeremic