

TO: Ms. Marlene Hancock
FAX: 604-941-4880
FROM: Jessica Minton
SUBJECT: Letter form Her Majesty
DATE: February 6, 2004
PAGES (INLCUDING COVER PAGE): 3


Dear Ms. Hancock,

We have been extremely busy and I sincerely apologize we were unable to get this to you sooner.

Attached, please find a letter by Her Majesty Queen Noor for the Douglas College International Model United Nations Conference.

We wish you and all conference attendees best of luck and much success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,


Jessica Minton
Office of Her Majesty Queen Noor



February 2004
Washington, D.C.

As you gather here today for The Douglas College International Model United Nations Conference, to undertake your exercise in skills of diplomacy, dialogue and negotiation, I wholeheartedly support your efforts in preparing for your careers and the larger-world challenges waiting ahead.

As you may know, I have worked in various forms of partnership with the UN for a quarter century addressing issues from hunger to the environment to refugees to children's welfare and scores of others. I can tell you that the UN, whatever its challenges today, is one of the most powerful engines for cooperation ever created by humankind.

The UN is the best vehicle we have for promoting the core values of modern Western culture: tolerance, freedom, democracy, human rights, and peace. UN action succeeds because, in addition to working to end conflict, it helps people rebuild their lives. What is more, it provides proven ways to address a host of human problems that transcend national borders. Addressing these challenges provides positive human security far more effectively than fences, checkpoints or military action.

Terrorism, the problem you have gathered to address this year, grows from extremism, and extremism grows from frustration, anger and despair. People who feel they have nothing left to lose can resort to desperate acts. From long experience, I know that the majority in our region long for freedom and control over their own destinies. Two and a quarter centuries ago, a group of freedom fighters waged a war for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The people of the Middle East want and deserve no less. For them, as for people everywhere, true security derives from a sense of freedom, hope and opportunity. And that security is the ultimate source of peace.

I know that peace is possible, even now — especially if young people get involved. I have seen the bitter enmity of previous generations overcome, transcended by young people enabled to meet and interact in an atmosphere of trust. The movement towards peace education is growing. More than 100 North American colleges and universities now have programs in conflict resolution.



Internationally, groups such as the prestigious UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, now in its 24th year, and the affiliated Peace Education Network, are working to bridge the divides of longstanding violence. Internet-based programs such as Bosnian KidsOnline and Eye-to-Eye, a web site for and by children in Palestinian refugee camps are taking advantage of modern communications technology to break through the physical and psychological barriers on which conflict is built.

There are a wealth of other successful programs I have worked with around the world predicated on the idea that bringing people of different backgrounds together to talk, listen and learn is the surest route to tolerance and peace. That peace grows not only from goodwill and understanding, important as those are, but from concrete results produced by motivated people pooling their ideas and resources in networks and creative coalitions to solve real problems.

I encourage you to add your voices to the many other voices around the world calling for justice and tolerance. As students and concerned citizens, you too can be part of the real coalition for peace and security. It is my sincere wish that you will come away from this conference with new ideas, and a renewed inspiration that communication and action can work together to find fresh hope for our world.

May peace be with you.