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Hanoi, 25th August 2004

Honorable Speaker/President

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and in my own name, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to you.

As you have acknowledged that the 12th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) held in Beijing in January 2004, unanimously decided to convene the 13th Annual Meeting in January 2005 in Viet Nam at the invitation of the Viet Nam National Assembly. In this spirit, on behalf of the Viet Nam National Assembly, I have a great honour to extend my cordial invitation to Your Excellency to lead a parliamentary delegation to participate in the 13th APPF Annual Meeting to be held from 10 to 13 January 2005 in Ha Long city, Quang Ninh province - one of a few place-names which is a pride of our nation with the world natural heritage Ha Long Bay recognized by UNESCO as one of world natural heritages.

The 13th Annual Meeting will focus on political and security issues, socioeconomic matters and other topics of mutual concern in strengthening cooperation for stability and prosperity of the region. It is my firm belief that at this upcoming gathering parliamentarians around the region will share opinions, discuss opportunities and challenges of our times, in the spirit of equality, mutual trust, narrowing differences and seeking the common ground, as well as concrete proposals and solutions, thereby actively contributing peace, development in Asia - Pacific and throughout the world.

With your support, the National Assembly and the National Organizing Committee over which I preside are doing their best level to ensure that the 13th APPF Annual Meeting in Viet Nam next January will be a memorable event in the life of parliamentary diplomacy, in continuation of a fruitful outcome of the 12th APPF Meeting in Beijing early this year.

We are looking forward to welcoming Your Excellency and your delegation to Viet Nam. Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes and the assurances of my highest consideration.

Nguyen Van An  
President of the National Assembly of S.R. Viet Nam  
President of APPF-13