

December 21, 2007

Anatoly E. Karpov
UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
c/o International Educational and Cultural Services, Inc.
Dr. Mikhail Korenman, President
63 W. 75th Street
Willowbrook, IL 60527

Dear Ambassador Karpov,

We thank you for notifying us of the Chess for Peace initiative and the International Scholastic Chess Convention in Chicago to occur in March 2008. It is a laudable program particularly given its multi-faceted approach to the challenges facing children. Not only will Chess for Peace help to build better understanding between youth across cultures, it will also address the special issues among students-at-risk.

We wish you and Dr. Korenman great success with the Chess for Peace initiative and with the Convention in March.

Sincerely,



Caryl M. Stern
President and CEO



BARACK OBAMA

December 11, 2007

Mr. Anatoly E. Karpov
UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
Moscow, Russia

Dr. Mikhail Korenman
International Educational and Cultural Services, Inc.
Willowbrook, IL

Ms. Myra Sampson
Principal/CEO,
CCA Academy
Chicago, IL

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to greet all of those organizing The International Scholastic Chess Convention in Chicago and to wish you the best of luck for a memorable and rewarding experience.

As you have shown, chess is truly effective and not only exercising the mind but also promoting understanding and mutual respect among its participants. By utilizing the game to forge new bond between students of different races, ethnicities, and nationalities, this Convention will be a truly great service to the ever-increasing global community.

To those who organizing the event, I commend you for your hard work, dedication, and integrity. I thank Mr. Anatoly Karpov, who has served as the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in Central and South Europe as well as Russia and other CIS countries, and who has been instrumental in organizing this worthy and important event. It is heartening that Mr. Karpov has taken his great skill as World Chess Champion Grand Master and applied it toward teaching young people across the globe about teamwork, peace and respect.

I also wish to thank Chicago's own CCA Academy, for hosting this chess convention, and for valuing the goals of the event. It is more important than ever that today's youth learn the valuable lesson that despite our outward differences, inside we are more similar than not. By offering resources necessary to make the event possible, CCA Academy has upheld it's commitment to providing Chicago's youth with important and rare educational opportunities and became the first school offering chess as part of the everyday curriculum.

I am confident that upcoming convention will positively influence and inspire the individuals who participate in this event, as well as the community-at-large long into the future. On behalf of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to wish you an unforgettable experience and the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator