Annan voices alarm at deadly consequences of Israeli incursion into Gaza

22 April 2004 – United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today voiced alarm at the deadly consequences of a two-day Israeli incursion into the northern Gaza Strip, noting that there were reportedly at least 10 civilians, including five children under the age of 15, among the Palestinian deaths.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Mr. Annan said he was aware that the incursion followed rocket and mortar fire against Israeli targets.

"However, the Secretary-General urges Israel to respect its obligations under international law as an occupying power regarding the use of disproportionate force in civilian areas," the statement added.