Germany too had a terrible dictator, called Hitler. The Second World War was going on when I was a little girl. He was defeated with terrible loss of life because he had such a grip on his own people who thought he was wonderful. Later, they realized what he was really like. Wicked people always need weak people to get power – and, when others try to take the power away from the wicked, the weak who have followed them are always the ones who suffer most. Millions of lives were lost in the two World Wars. People said, "Never again. We want peace." But people still allow wicked men to get power – and keep power – and do not oppose them until it is too late. If you and I are serious about peace, then we have to confront evil when it is THIS size (*tiny*) – and not wait until it is THIS size (*huge*). Our personal war must be against everything that is wrong.

And, yes, every country must have an army and insist upon the good training of its armed forces. They are there if the forces of evil become too great for ordinary people to deal with. But any government must be very slow to send them into war to kill and be killed. The aim must be to confront evil in a better way and so make peace possible without war. We all wait and hope and pray that soon the guns will be silent and that justice and peace will come to Iraq – and also that foolish people do not make this war an excuse to do dangerous and violent things, all over the world, including in this country. Let there be peace for all the peoples of the world because there is submission to justice and goodness and love.

God bless you.

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THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET THERE BE – 3.4

Assembly 59 – Wednesday April 9th 2003

We are looking at the words of the Millenium Resolution. Let there be – what was the first? (*respect for the earth*) then there was? Let there be (*peace for its peoples*) Yesterday, when I was a guest at the American International School, Mrs Islam spoke to you about? 'Let there be love in our lives' – and today there is 'Let there be delight in the good.'. Delight – *anundito.*

Just think of the things that fill you with delight. Maybe it is the beauties of nature. Bangladesh is such a beautiful country in some places. Some of you have told me, in your essays about 'An unforgettable holiday' of lovely places that you have seen. But some of you also wrote about the joy of being with other people and the fun that you had – because we can all be *anundito* about the beauty of human relationships – the love that some families enjoy – though not all, sadly.

At school, we hope, we can make you delighted about books! We are slowly building up our libraries. The Foundation School book trolley will soon be here, the Junior School is having library periods and the Senior School is learning to use some of the books that are, at present, in Mrs Islam's room. We are all looking forward to one of our new rooms being a proper library, with bookshelves of books that you can borrow and take home to read, as long as you sign out for them. I hope you are all also delighted at the skills you are developing. Some skills we teach you in school, some skills you develop for yourselves at home – learning skills, sporting skills, relationship skills.

I hope that, as we get older, we learn to feel delight in the progress, not just of ourselves, but of other people, including

those in other nations. We can read about, or see on our televisions, maybe about children in Africa or Indonesia, who are going to school for the first time; or a village in Africa that has been taught how to dig a large pond to collect the rain water in the rainy season so that, in the dry season, they still have water; or someone from a poor family, who has become very skilled in some way that is going to benefit their country. All people are the family of mankind, all over the world, and it is right for us to delight in the beauties of each other's geographical scenery and wild-life, the progress of different peoples and the richness of the different cultures. It is right to delight in music and art, literature and dancing, drama and sport.

But, sadly, partly because of television, we also have before our eyes, things that are not delightful. There are horror movies and ugliness, bad language and bad actions, violence and lack of respect. Sometimes, these undelightful things are presented as amusing (funny) and sophisticated and modern, fashionable and attractive. In England, when I asked classes of school children, of every age-group, "Have you ever seen on television, something that you wish you had not seen?" nearly all the hands go up. When your parents try to limit your viewing to what is suitable for young people, they are not being fussy or foolish, they are being responsible parents. They do not want you to see things that are not delightful.

Every day, if we are really looking, we have the opportunity to see things that are delightful and we should notice them and express our appreciation and our thanks. Year 6 gave me some very useful suggestions of what they could say to people in their lives who did their work well and kindly, reliably and responsibly – servants and drivers as well as those in higher jobs. We have to be looking out, every day, for things to delight us. Let us delight in the good. God bless you.

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THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET THERE BE - 5

Assembly 60 – Thursday April 10th 2003

I need to remind some of you of the routine that you should follow if you spill some water. What you do NOT do is to pretend it has not happened and allow people to step in the water and then put muddy footprints all over the floor of the classroom and corridor. You do not deal with mistakes by pretending they have not happened. What you would have to do in most developed countries is to get a floor-cloth or mop and bucket and clean it up yourself! Here, you will probably be lucky and find one of our cleaners who will do it for you but, actually, they are responsible for cleaning at the end of the day and should not need to clean up after you all day.

The next part of the Millenium Resolution is – 'Let there be forgiveness for past wrongs.' We are all human. We do wrong things. Sometimes we do wrong things by accident or through ignorance or because we are mistaken. But sometimes people do wrong things intentionally. They are doing something nasty because they want to hurt someone. Should we forgive them?

We all do wrong things and we all need the mercy, the forgiveness, of God and so we should show mercy to one another and forgive one another. People can hurt you and me – sometimes very much – and we can say, "I will never forgive you" – but we must think whether that is right. Jesus told a funny story – and I am sure you have a similar story in your own religious writings - of a very rich man who discovered that one of his servants had been cheating him for a long time and now owed him *millions* of taka. He was very angry with him and said, "I will put you in prison until you pay me." The man fell on his knees and begged