

Asia's Ban set for UN top job

South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki-Moon is front-runner to succeed Kofi Annan and become eighth secretary-general of the United Nations. The UN Security Council has set October 9 as the date when the 192-nation General Assembly must approve the council's choice



■ **1944, June 13:** ***Ban Ki-Moon*** born to farming family in Chungju in central South Korea, towards end of Japanese occupation

■ **1962:** As a student, Ban first dreams of career as diplomat when he meets ***President Kennedy*** at White House

■ **1970:** Graduates from Seoul National University in international relations – joins Republic of Korea foreign ministry

■ **1975:** Becomes staff member at UN

■ **1985:** Earns master's degree in public administration at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts

■ **Late 80-mid 90s:** Occupies diplomatic posts in New Delhi, India; UN in New York; South Korean Embassy in Washington D.C.; and is appointed Ambassador to Austria

■ **1992:** Serves as Vice Chair of ***South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission*** – key deal for peace and stability on Korean peninsula agreed

■ **1996:** Appointed ***National Security Advisor*** to South Korean President

■ **1999:** Serves as Chairman of Preparatory Commission for ***Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization***

■ **2001:** As ***Chef-de-Cabinet*** to President of UN General Assembly, Ban works to engender spirit of cooperation and unity following 9/11 terrorist attacks

■ **2004:** Appointed South Korean ***Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade***

■ **2005:** As ***Foreign Minister***, Ban plays key role in ***Six Party Talks*** to resolve North Korean nuclear issue

■ **2006, Feb:** Ban officially declares candidacy for UN's top job – the third person to do so

■ *Ban is married with a son and two daughters. He identifies himself as a Non-Denominational Christian. An English speaker, Ban also speaks French, some German and Japanese*