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JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, who assumed office 1 January 1982 as Secretary-General of the United Nations, was appointed by the General Assembly on 15 December 1981 for a five-year term. The Security Council had recommended the appointment on 11 December 1981, and the Assembly approved it by acclamation.

A lawyer and career diplomat, Mr. Perez de Cuellar had previously served as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has also served as Peru's Ambassador to Venezuela, the Soviet Union, Poland and Switzerland, as his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Cyprus.

He joined the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in 1940 and the diplomatic service in 1944, serving as Secretary at the Peruvian embassies in France, the United Kingdom, Bolivia and Brazil, and Counsellor at the embassy in Brazil.

He returned to Lima in 1961 as Director of the Legal and Personnel Departments in the Ministry of External Relations, was promoted to the rank of Ambassador the following year, becoming successively Director of Administration, Director of Protocol and Director of Political Affairs.

From 1964 to 1966, Mr. Perez de Cuellar served as Peruvian Ambassador to Switzerland, later becoming Permanent Under-Secretary and Secretary-General of the Foreign Office.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar was the first Ambassador of Peru to the Soviet Union, serving in that post from 1969 to 1971. He served concurrently as Ambassador to Poland.