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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS AT PRESENTATION BY NANCY REAGAN
OF NORMAN ROCKWELL MOSAIC

Following is the text of the remarks to be made today by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the presentation by Mrs. Nancy Reagan of a Norman Rockwell mosaic:

It gives me great pleasure to accept this magnificent Norman Rockwell mosaic, as a gift to the United Nations on the occasion of our fortieth anniversary. Let me express our warm appreciation to Mrs. Nancy Reagan and, through her, to the American Government and people, for their generous symbol of support for the world Organization.

You have chosen a most appropriate theme for the United Nations, one that is truly in keeping with the guiding spirit of the Charter. The painter's vision indeed recalls the Charter's inspiring precept for all "to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours". The mosaic eloquently expresses our aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to sex, race, language or religion.

Norman Rockwell portrayed the essential qualities of integrity and compassion, of common decency and honesty. They are clearly reflected in the faces of this mosaic -- faces that include his own. He was a painter of warmth and humanity. And above all, he was proud of his work's popular appeal. That is a lesson for all of us. We must never forget that it is to "the peoples of the United Nations" that we owe our first allegiance. To realize their hopes for a future of universal dignity, justice and peace, is the aim of all our endeavours in the world Organization. Your gift today is a fitting reminder of this objective.

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