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Press Release HQ/227
4 October 1966

PAINTING BY CHILEAN ARTIST UNVEILED AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

An oil painting by the Chilean artist, Nemesio Antunez, was unveiled at United Nations Headquarters at a brief ceremony this afternoon.

The painting, entitled "Corazon de los Andes" ("The Heart of the Andes"), was presented to the United Nations by the Government of Chile. Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes presented the painting, on behalf of his Government, to the Secretary-General, U Thant.

Among those present at the ceremony were C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs and Chef de Cabinet; José Rolz-Bennett, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, in charge of the Office of Public Information; José Pinera Carvallo, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations; and the painter, Mr. Antunez.

The oil painting, 4 metres by 2 metres (148 inches by 74 inches), depicting the South American mountain range and lakes of the area, was given by Mr. Antunez to the Government of Chile specifically for presentation to the United Nations.

The Foreign Minister of Chile, in a brief statement, said that the painting testified to the great admiration and support the people of Chile had for the United Nations and its purposes.

Thanking the Government of Chile for the painting, the Secretary-General said that the growing collection of works of art at the United Nations "express more eloquently than any words the infinite resources of the human spirit and the wonderful variety of its manifestations."

U Thant said that the painting was an "expression in poetic and imaginative form of the essence and geography of the Latin American continent", and "its style and its scale are well suited to the spirit of the architecture of this house." (For full text of the Secretary-General's statement, see press release SG/SM/578.)

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The painter, Mr. Antunez, was born in Chile in 1918 and studied architecture at the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile. In 1953, after 10 years of painting and studying in New York and Paris, he returned to Chile where he organized the "Taller 99", a co-operative print workshop.

Mr. Antunez was appointed the director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Chile, in 1962. Three years later, he was appointed as Cultural Attaché to the Chilean Embassy in the United States.

Mr. Antunez has received many national and international awards and has exhibited his works in Chile, Peru, Argentina, the United States, France and Norway.

This afternoon's ceremony was held on the first basement level, between Conference Rooms 5 and 6 in the General Assembly Building, where the painting is temporarily located.

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