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Press Release

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Biographical Note



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M'HAMED ESSAAFI APPOINTED AS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CHEF DE CABINET

M'Hamed Essaafi of Tunisia, who was today appointed by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as his Chef de Cabinet (see Press Release SG/A/261 issued earlier today), has been Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia since September 1980.

Prior to that appointment, he was Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, a post which he took up in January 1980. During his term as Permanent Representative, he was elected as Chairman of the Committee on Information.

Before coming to the United Nations, Mr. Essaafi served as Ambassador of Tunisia to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Community, a post he held from 1978.

From 1969 to 1970 and from 1976 to 1978, he was Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Ambassador to London from 1964 to 1969, Ambassador to Moscow from 1970 to 1974, and Ambassador to Bonn from 1974 to 1976.

Mr. Essaafi was Minister Plenipotentiary and Chief of the American and International Conferences Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1962 to 1964, and Counsellor of the Embassy and Chief of the American Division at the same Ministry from 1960 to 1962.

Joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1956, he first served at the Tunisian Embassy in London and then as First Secretary at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. from 1957 to 1960.

Mr. Essaafi was born on 26 May 1930 in Kolibia. He has degrees in English literature (1955) and a Diploma of Higher Studies (1956) from the Sorbonne University in Paris.

He is married and has two children.

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* This release supersedes Press Release SG/A/247-BIO/1724 of 31 July 1980.

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