

United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York



SG/SM/3434
SG/A/315
24 June 1983

SECRETARY-GENERAL NAMES SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR RECONSTRUCTION
IN BOLIVIA, ECUADOR AND PERU FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS

The following statement was made today by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General:

As is well known, an extensive area of South America is being subjected to acute changes in ecological and weather patterns which are having a devastating effect on living conditions, the economy and the physical infrastructure of a large section of the region. The three most affected countries are Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

While the United Nations system has responded to this serious emergency by providing assistance with its own resources within the limits of its financial capacity, in order to serve as a catalyst for the mobilization of additional resources from the international community, the Secretary-General feels that it is necessary to make a special effort to cater to the needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction in this area.

Accordingly, as a first step, and after consultations with the three Governments concerned, the Secretary-General has decided to appoint Hugo Navajas-Mogro, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, as his Personal Representative.

Mr. Navajas-Mogro will visit Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru in the forthcoming days in order to evaluate, with high-level national authorities, the extent of the damage to date and their plans for dealing with the emergency, the rehabilitation and the reconstruction which may have been established for the short- and medium-term, as well as the subsequent steps that will have to be taken with the support of the Secretary-General.

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