

1973:25

UNITED NATIONS

Press Section  
Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release HQ/289  
10 January 1973

CEREMONY HELD TO DEDICATE MURAL COMMEMORATING 1970 YOUTH ASSEMBLY

A mural painting commemorating the 1970 United Nations World Youth Assembly was dedicated this afternoon at a ceremony at United Nations Headquarters.

The painting, by Lumen Martin Winter, a United States national, is the first work of art to be commissioned under a General Assembly resolution. Entitled "Titans", the oil on linen-canvas painting is located in the third floor passage connecting the Conference and General Assembly buildings. (For further details, see Note to Correspondents No. 3795/Rev.1, issued today.)

Statements were made at the ceremony by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim; the artist, Mr. Winter; and Jamil M. Baroodi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, who had suggested that a mural be painted to commemorate the Youth Assembly.

The World Youth Assembly, the first international youth conference organized by the United Nations, was held from 9 to 17 July 1970 in conjunction with the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Organization. In deciding to authorize the mural -- in resolution 2896 (XXVI) of 22 December 1971 -- the General Assembly noted that the Youth Assembly had "paved the way for a better understanding among youth designed to contribute to efforts for bringing about peace, justice and progress in the world".

The Secretary-General, in his statement at the ceremony this afternoon, said the World Youth Assembly had "emphasized the positive contribution that youth can make -- and, indeed, must make -- towards achieving the goals of the Charter of the United Nations". The debate of the Youth Assembly, he said, had also illustrated that youth must be treated as an integral part of society, rather than as a separate element.

Mr. Waldheim observed that the United Nations was at an important turning-point in its relations with world youth, and he was glad that the last General Assembly session had taken a number of important decisions, based on his recommendations, to improve the Organization's relationship with youth and with international youth bodies.

(more)

2p

Press Release HQ/289  
10 January 1972

Among those decisions, he said, was one to convene an ad hoc group on youth to advise him on activities that the United Nations should undertake to meet the needs and aspirations of youth. The Assembly, he added, had also endorsed a recommendation relating to the recruitment of young staff members to the United Nations Secretariat -- "a development which I regard of the greatest importance to the future of the United Nations".

The Secretary-General said it was his hope that the proposed United Nations University would "emerge as a dynamic network of research and scholarly exchange on urgent global problems" and serve also as "a very significant channel of communication with young people".

(For the text of Mr. Waldheim's statement, see Press Release SG/SM/1795 issued earlier today.)

Mr. Baroody said that praise on this occasion must also be given to Lord Caradon (former Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom) who had initiated the idea of convening a World Youth Assembly. The outlook and attitudes of youth today were much different when his generation was young. Youth today were creators, initiators, doers; no longer just dreamers, though dreams were necessary for a better future.

He recited two poems he had had published in 1936, recalling that when he found out "what the world was like politically, romance went out the window". The ideas expressed in the poems, he said, were old, but not antiquated. The present generation might yet revive them.

The United Nations, he concluded, should commit itself to youth and youth should commit itself to the slogan adopted by the Organization at its twenty-fifth anniversary -- peace, justice and progress.

Mr. Winter, the artist, said the theme of the painting centered around eternal life; the blending of one generation into the next. The youth of the world would come together, he said, and bring about world peace and understanding.

\* \*\*\* \*