

United Nations

Press Release

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ECUADOR PRESENTS UNITED NATIONS WITH INDIAN RUGS

The Government of Ecuador this morning presented to the United Nations two hand-woven rugs for use in the first basement conference area of Headquarters.

The presentation was made to the Secretary-General at a special ceremony outside Conference Room 4 by Victor Hugo Garces, Secretary-General of the Administration and Cabinet Minister of Ecuador, after an introduction by the Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Miguel Albornoz.

The rugs, which measure 9.58 by 7.54 metres, were hand-woven by Indian craftsmen of the town of Guano, in the Andes of Ecuador. They are sand-coloured and vegetable-dyed, with a design characteristic of the Jivaro, who are the inhabitants of the tropical Amazonian jungle of Ecuador. They are exact replicas of rugs presented to the United Nations 25 years ago.

Mr. Garces said the weavers of Guano had worked on the rugs for the past five months. He also presented the Secretary-General with a small replica for his personal use.

In response, the Secretary-General said he was delighted to accept the gift on behalf of the United Nations. It was particularly fitting that this ceremony should take place on the national day of Ecuador.

"The beautiful handwoven rugs, which will now replace those which have been here since the earliest days of this building, have a special significance", he said. "Their traditional designs were both contemporary and timeless. They were just as striking and fresh as they seemed when first laid down in the building 25 years ago."

Although the original rugs were now being replaced, they showed remarkably little sign of wear, Mr. Waldheim said. This was another testimony to the skill of the craftsmen who had created them.

(For the full text of the Secretary-General's remarks, see Press Release SG/SM/2629 - HQ/387, issued today.)

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