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MURAL BY COLOMBIAN ARTIST PRESENTED TO UNITED NATIONS

A mural painting, executed by a Colombian artist on the north wall of the Delegates' Lounge and donated to the United Nations, was this morning unveiled at a ceremony attended by President Belisario Betancur Cuartas of Colombia and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Presenting the mural to the Secretary-General on behalf of Colombia, President Betancur said his country was giving to the United Nations something it would have dearly loved to keep. He described the artist, Alejandro Obregón, as "a sensitive poet" and said his work represented the dawn of peace and justice both indissoluble and ecumenical.

In accepting the gift, the Secretary-General expressed the gratitude of the United Nations at adding an outstanding contribution by Colombia to its art collection. He thought the work would add light and colour to a place that was a meeting point of diplomats from all over the world and which sometimes reflected the disagreements in the world. He described Colombia as a dynamic Member of the United Nations since the Organization's founding.

The mural, entitled "Sunrise in the Andes", represents, according to the artist, the intensity of a rainforest sunrise and the very colourful nature of South America. Mr. Obregón remarked that the Andean mountain range was like a cord linking all of the Americas. The painting is also said to capture the majesty of the endangered condor, whose eggs, made fragile by pesticides, rarely hatch.

Mr. Obregón's works are also found in the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, among other places.

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