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Press Release

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Biographical Note

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DIEGO CORDOVEZ APPOINTED UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim today announced the appointment of Diego Cordóvez as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. He succeeds Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, who has returned to the service of the Government of Peru.

Mr. Cordóvez has been Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, since April 1978.

During the past few years, Mr. Cordóvez has been entrusted by the Secretary-General with a number of special assignments. He was the senior official accompanying the Commission of Inquiry that travelled to Iran in 1980. He is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with respect to a dispute over the continental shelf between Malta and Libya. He has travelled on several occasions to Iran and Iraq with Olof Palme, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in efforts to end the conflict between these two countries.

From 1973 to 1978, Mr. Cordóvez was Secretary of the Economic and Social Council. In that capacity, he also served as Secretary of the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly.

As Director of the Council Secretariat, he acted as Secretary of the World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974), of the World Food Conference (Rome, 1974), of the World Conference of International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975) and of the United Nations Water Conference (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 1977).

From 1971 to 1973, Mr. Cordóvez served as Senior Officer in the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs.

Mr. Cordóvez joined the United Nations in 1963 and was involved in the Preparatory work for the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Following the establishment of UNCTAD in 1964, Mr.

(more)

* This supersedes Press Release SG/A/205-BIO/1485 of 13 April 1978.

28 July 1981

Cordovez served as Special Assistant to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in Geneva and New York, until December 1970. In 1965, he served as Political Officer in the mission sent by the Security Council to the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Cordovez joined the Foreign Service of Ecuador in 1958 as Secretary of the Embassy in Santiago, Chile, and represented his Government at several international meetings at Santiago and Geneva. He graduated from the Faculty of Juridical and Political Science of the University of Chile and was admitted to the Bar in 1962.

Mr. Cordovez is the author of a study entitled The Making of UNCTAD, published in London by the Journal of the World Trade Law, and of a book, UNCTAD and Development Diplomacy, published in 1971 under the auspices of the same journal.

Born in Quito on 3 November 1935, Mr. Cordovez is married and has a son.

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