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**Forty-fourth session****GENERAL ASSEMBLY****PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING**

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 20 February 1990, at 9.30 a.m.

**President:****Mr. GARBA****(Nigeria)**

- Tribute to the memory of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea
- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit [17] (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF SIR IGNATIUS KILAGE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The PRESIDENT: Before we consider the item on the agenda for this meeting, it is my sad duty to recall to the General Assembly the death of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, which occurred on 31 December 1989.

Sir Ignatius Kilage, who was appointed the first Chief Ombudsman after the independence of Papua New Guinea, in 1975, and who later became the fourth Governor-General of his country, will be remembered for his untiring dedication to his country and for the support he extended to the quest for peace and justice for the world. His death is a tragic loss for his country.

May I extend to the members of his family, as well as to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, my most profound condolences.

I call on the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It was with deep sadness that I heard of the passing of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, who served his country with such great distinction. I wish to associate myself with the tribute paid to his memory by the President of the General Assembly. May I also take this opportunity to extend my most sincere personal condolences to the family of Sir Ignatius Kilage and to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Sir Ignatius Kilage.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Noel Rakotondramboa of Madagascar, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Group of African States, I wish to join previous speakers in expressing our deep sadness at the death, on 31 December 1989, of the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Ignatius Kilage.

Unassuming in his ways, even after having acceded to the highest responsibilities of his State, Sir Ignatius was deeply dedicated to the traditional customs and values of his people, to whose service he devoted the whole of his brilliant career.

I should like to convey the African Group's most sincere condolences to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea and to the family of the deceased.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Gharekhan of India, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. GHAREKHAN (India): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

We were saddened by the news of the passing, on 31 December 1989, of Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. Sir Ignatius had a long and distinguished record of public service spanning nearly two decades, during which he held several important positions in his country. He impressed all who met him with his courtesy, simplicity and dignity. He personified the traditional values that so often provide a much-needed balance to the impatience and self-indulgence of the modern world. Although he ceased to be a pastor in 1974, he carried with him throughout his life the beliefs and convictions that moulded his contributions to his country and to the international community. The untimely demise of Sir Ignatius at the early age of 48 is a tragic loss, not only for his country but for the world.

(Mr. Gharekhan, India)

I should like to convey the condolences of the Asian Group to the members of the bereaved family and to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea. We share their sense of loss and wish them solace in their bereavement.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Mr. Stanislaw Pawlak of Poland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. PAWLAK (Poland): Please allow me, on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, to express our sincere condolences and sympathy to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea at the passing away of their Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, who devoted his life and career to his nation.

We share the sorrow of the people of Papua New Guinea at the loss of their leader, a distinguished statesman and a great patriot. He will not easily be replaced, but we are convinced that his deeds in the development and promotion of his country will live long in the memory of his compatriots.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Ms. Marjorie Thorpe of Trinidad and Tobago, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Ms. THORPE (Trinidad and Tobago): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I would like to express our profound sorrow at the recent death of His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Ordained a Catholic priest in 1968, Sir Ignatius first served his people in that capacity for six years. But his devotion to public service did not end in 1974, when he was granted a papal release from Holy Orders. Rather, Sir Ignatius went on to become, in 1975, the first Chief Ombudsman of Papua New Guinea, a position to which he was reappointed in 1978.

In 1989 Sir Ignatius was made Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George by Queen Elizabeth II, after he had been elected the fourth Governor-General of Papua New Guinea by the National Parliament. His elevation to that high office represented a fitting tribute to a distinguished nationalist who, for more than two decades, had worked tirelessly to promote the traditional customs and values of his country, a nationalist who to the very end remained committed to the ideal of a just and free society.

(Ms. Thorpe, Trinidad and Tobago)

Our sympathy goes out to the family of the late Governor-General and to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Fernando José Reino of Portugal, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. REINO (Portugal): It was with deep distress that the members of the Group of Western European and Other States learned about the untimely death of His Excellency Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Ignatius had a distinguished and long career at the service of his country as Papua New Guinea's first Ombudsman and as Governor-General. He was a staunch defender of a just society in which man could be free and traditional customs and values respected.

On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States I would like to convey our most sincere condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Thomas Pickering, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): As the representative of the host country and on behalf of the President and the Government of the United States, I wish to express our profound condolences to the people of Papua New Guinea and to the family of the late Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General, whose recent untimely passing has saddened us all.

The life of Sir Ignatius Kilage was devoted to the service of his fellow man and guided by his deep spiritual and ethical values. He was an enemy of corruption deeply committed to democratic principles who laboured tirelessly to uphold the rights and dignity of his fellow citizens. His life is an example to us all, and his loss will be felt by us all. Sir Ignatius Kilage will be sorely missed.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

In keeping with the subject on which we are speaking, I would also like to express profound regret to the Secretary-General at the news that two members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were killed and six wounded over the weekend. I request that the condolences of the United States Government and people be conveyed to the families of these men, who were serving the cause of peace in the Middle East under the United Nations flag.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Ranaqi Ranaqi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): On behalf of the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea and the family of Sir Ignatius Kilage, may I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your expressions of condolence and sympathy for the late Sir Ignatius Kilage, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

Sir Ignatius was a simple but highly educated and committed man, committed to the principles of human rights and the dignity of mankind. He was a man of peace and honour. Sir Ignatius will be long remembered for his invaluable contribution and dedication to the people of Papua New Guinea and to our nation.

Papua New Guinea is made up of many different linguistic groups with more than 750 languages and dialects. The unity of our nation and our people is of paramount importance to all Papua New Guineans. Sir Ignatius was a true nationalist who used his viceregal post to promote peace, unity, justice and equal rights for all, not only in Papua New Guinea but throughout the world. Sir Ignatius believed that the rights of all peoples must prevail throughout the whole of society and, therefore, that the Government and leaders, whether traditional leaders or business leaders, have to serve the people in the right way, with equality.

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

Your messages, your sympathy and condolences, have been heard in our traditional way by the spirit of Sir Ignatius, who is with us today. However, those messages will be conveyed and relayed to his family and to the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea. I thank you again most kindly for your gracious words.

**AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)**

**APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS:**

**(h) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT**

The PRESIDENT: In connection with agenda item 17 (h) four notes have been circulated in documents A/44/803 and Addenda 1, 2 and 3. Members will recall that, as indicated in document A/44/813, the General Assembly is required during its current session to appoint four members to fill the vacancies in the Joint Inspection Unit that will arise from the expiration of the terms of office on 31 December 1990 of Mr. Alain Gourdon of France, Mr. Richard Hennes of the United States of America, Mr. Ivan Kojic of Yugoslavia and Mr. Kabonqo Tunsala of Zaire.



(The President)

Pursuant to document A/44/813/Add.1, the General Assembly at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 15 December 1989, by its decision 44/316 appointed Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski of Poland and Mr. Kabongo Tunsala of Zaire for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1991 and expiring on 31 December 1995.

However, as indicated in document A/44/813/Add.2, on 15 December 1989 the number of candidates from the Western European and other States still exceeded the number of vacancies from that region and, therefore, the Assembly, on my proposal, at that same meeting selected by secret ballot two countries, namely, Greece and the United States of America, which were then requested to propose candidates.

As indicated in document A/44/813/Add.3, as a result of further consultations in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, I now propose to appoint, with the concurrence of the General Assembly, Mrs. Erica-Irene Daes of Greece and Mr. Richard Hennes of the United States of America as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a term commencing on 1 January 1991 and expiring on 31 December 1995.

May I take it that the General Assembly concurs with those appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Daes and Mr. Hennes on their appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of item 17.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.