

Mr. President,

thank you for giving me the floor.

Mr. President, since we have been here, from the end of January, talking a lot about everything and its contrary. Still, very few about negotiating disarmament and non-proliferation, I ask your indulgence for a three minutes speech in honor of a man of peace, that died this last week in his hometown, Lima, in Peru, the ex-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuéllar.

Ambassador Perez de Cuéllar was first Ambassador here, to Switzerland; after that, he became Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Relations of his country, and then Ambassador to the ancient Soviet Union. He had also been the Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations and, as such, President of the Security Council. He was appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and, just two months after his retirement from the diplomatic service of Peru, he was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations and afterward re-elected for a second mandate, that ended in 1992.

Javier Perez de Cuéllar, even before his designation as Assistant Secretary-General, had acted as an envoy to Cyprus and

obtained a truce between Greek and Turkish communities for a beginning of peace negotiations. During his two mandates as Secretary-General, he had to face, and help solving, what he did with diplomatic acuteness, several delicate world situations, amongst which we can quote, the peace negotiations on the Malvinas war, the liberation of hostages in Lebanon, the peace between the Government and the guerrillas in El Salvador, the peace arrangements for the end of the war between Iran and Irak, besides being constant in condemning the apartheid regime in South Africa.

But why am I bringing his name today before this Conference on Disarmament?

Because he was a man of peace and disarmament, and I believe we have a lesson to learn from him, mostly these days. What we can learn from him, Mister President, I believe, is this message, that disarmament is not just a matter of discussing if we are going to dismantle nuclear devices, if we are going to do it transparently or not, if we are obeying the proper rules in our discussions here of if there are new technical aspects of some weapons that have to be dealt with. All these are important matters, for sure, but the lesson we have from the diplomatic life of Ambassador Perez de Cuéllar is that disarmament can really only be achieved through the disarmament of our minds and hearts and

through an effective and consensual use of diplomacy. If we are not able to start from there, we will never be able to effectively achieve disarmament or non-proliferation.

So, long life to the memory of this great Latin-American who was Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuéllar.

Thank you.