THANKS ■ GIVING SQUARE

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson
Deputy-Secretary-General
UN Secretariat
New York, NY 10017

ACTION Takasu
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Dear Mr. Eliasson,

I was delighted to hear that our representative, Giulio Romano, was able to speak with you, if only for a moment, at the DPI/NGO event at the Church Center on 6 December 2012.

Following on this, allow me to convey the wish of the Thanks-Giving Foundation, Dallas Texas, to organize in November 2013 a re-dedication ceremony of Norman Rockwell's Golden Rule Mosaic, once it is put back in place in the Secretariat building. This mosaic was a gift from the Thanks-Giving Foundation to the United States for the United Nations on its 40th anniversary in 1985.

From its inception in 1964 our Foundation has worked on building global inter-religious and intercultural bridges to promote peace. It has, since the 1970's, been inspired by some leading figures among Representatives to the United Nations, the Secretariat and UN associated non-governmental organizations.

We would be honored if you could assist us in the organization of this re-dedication ceremony which will bring together the greater UN family.

Respectfully yours,

Tatiana Androsov

Tatiana Androsov
Senior Advisor &
Main NGO Representative

JAN 16 2013

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The Thanks-Giving Foundation is a chartered 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

Com/07/001

Answered
by Takashi
27 Dec 12

I PAINT THE GOLDEN RULE

Most of the time I try to entertain with my *Post* covers. But once in a while I get an uncontrollable urge to say something serious.

Like everyone else, I'm concerned with the world situation, and like everyone else, I'd like to contribute something to help. The only way I can contribute is through my pictures. So for a long time I had been trying to think of a subject that might be of some help.

Then one day (I don't know why or how) I suddenly got the idea that the Golden Rule—"Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You"—was the subject I was looking for. Right away I got intensely excited. But how could I picture the Golden Rule? I began to make all sorts of sketches. Then I remembered that down in the cellar of my studio was the ten-foot-long charcoal drawing of my United Nations picture, which I had never finished. I hauled it upstairs. In it I had tried to depict all the peoples of the world gathered together. That was just what I wanted to express about the Golden Rule.

I spent almost five months painting the picture. It was an enormous amount of work. But I never got discouraged about it and, right or wrong, I never stopped thinking that it was worthwhile.

United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

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HQ/466
21 October 1985

NORMAN ROCKWELL MOSAIC PRESENTED TO UNITED NATIONS BY NANCY REAGAN

A Norman Rockwell mosaic depicting people of different nationalities standing together with the words "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" inscribed on it, was presented by Nancy Reagan, wife of United States President Ronald Reagan, to the United Nations this afternoon at a ceremony attended by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The mosaic, entitled "The Golden Rule", seeks to depict "a vision of a united people", said Mrs. Reagan. It provided an example that "nations could take heart in and work for". The mosaic has been installed on the third floor of the Conference building.

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, in accepting the mosaic on behalf of the United Nations, said: "The painter's vision indeed recalls the Charter's inspiring precept for all 'to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours'. The mosaic eloquently expresses our aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to sex, race, language or religion."

The Secretary-General added: "Norman Rockwell portrayed the essential qualities of integrity and compassion, of common decency and honesty. They are clearly reflected in the faces of this mosaic -- faces that include his own." (For text of the Secretary-General's statement, see Press Release SG/SM/3770-HQ/465.)

According to information provided by the United States Mission to the United Nations, the idea for the painting originated with an unfinished Rockwell drawing of the Security Council. "The painter spent five months transforming the earlier work into a painting which would illuminate the principle which he and the world hoped the United Nations would serve."

Mrs. Reagan said that the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation of Dallas, Texas, had arranged and financed the creation of the mosaic.

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United Nations Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

27 December 2012

Dear Ms. Androsov,

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General in which you proposed that a rededication ceremony for the Golden Rule Mosaic should take place in November 2013.

We welcome the initiative from the Thanks-Giving Foundation, as the original donor of the mosaic which has graced the third floor of the Conference Building s nce its original installation in 1985.

I would encourage you to coordinate with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, which would be the most appropriate partner for such a ceremony.

As you may be aware, spaces for special events at Headquarters must be reserved by Member States. In the event that the U.S. Mission would seek to organize such an event, the U.S. Mission would need to coordinate directly with the Special Events Unit in the Department of Management.

I hope the event proceeds as you propose, and I look forward to attending or participating. The Golden Rule Mosaic is one of the most poignant and hopeful pieces of artwork in the UN collection.

Yours sincerely,

(For) Yukio Takasu
Under-Secretary-General
for Management

Ms. Tatiana Androsov
Senior Advisor and Main NGO Representative
The Thanks-Giving Foundation
Dallas

12-03117