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MESSAGE FROM U THANT, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I have great pleasure in conveying my greetings to the participants of the international symposium "V.I. Lenin and the problems of development of science, culture and education", organised by UNESCO on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, founder of the first socialist state, outstanding scholar and prominent humanist. It is in recognition of the significant practical and theoretical contribution of this great thinker to human advancement that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 16 (XXV) welcomed the decision of the UNESCO General Conference "to make arrangements on the occasion of the centenary of Lenin" and noted "the historical influence of his humanistic ideas and activity on the development and realization of economic, social and cultural rights."

Lenin was a man with a mind of great clarity and incisiveness, and his ideas have had a profound influence on the course of contemporary history. In his political activity, he achieved a harmonious combination of the depth and breadth of a theoretical thinker and political practitioner. His ideas not only have found their expression in the achievements of the Soviet people, but have also won the recognition and acclaim of many countries and peoples. The ideals of peace and peaceful coexistence among states have won widespread international acceptance and they are in line with the aims of the United Nations Charter in which the peoples of the United Nations proclaimed their determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. Only a few
months ago, the General Assembly, in its resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, stressed once again the noble aims of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights, non-intervention, non-use of force and self-determination of peoples. It also emphasized the necessity of achieving international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

Lenin's important contribution to the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms has been widely recognized. He attached tremendous importance to science, culture and education and regarded them as powerful driving forces for overcoming backwardness, accelerating economic and social progress and creating better standards of life for all. In his words, all the marvels of science and the gains of culture should belong to the people as a whole.

I should like to express the confident hope that the symposium will prove useful to the cause of social progress and better life for all peoples, promote collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture, and thus contribute to peace and security in the world.
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As a man with a mind of great clarity and incisiveness, whose ideas have had such a profound influence on the course of contemporary history, Lenin had hardly an equal. His activity is a harmonious combination of the depth and breadth of a theoretical thinker and political practitioner. His ideas not only have found their expression in the achievements of the Soviet people, but have also won the recognition and acclaim of many countries and peoples. The ideals of peace and peaceful coexistence among states have won widespread international acceptance and they are in line with the aims of the United Nations Charter in which the peoples of the United Nations proclaimed their determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and equality of people, the General Assembly, in its resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, stressed once again the noble aims of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of
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