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Folder Title: President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings and Events - Mr Ayala Lasso - United Nations [UN] High Commissioner for Human Rights - July 24, 1996

Folder ID: 30484986

Dates: 02/14/1994 – 07/26/1996

Subfonds: Records of President James D. Wolfensohn

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30484986

R2002-036 Other #: 18 Box #: 186468B

President Wolfensohn - Briefings Books for Presidents Meetings - Meeting Materials
Mr Ayala Lasso - United Nations [UN] High Commissioner for Human Rights - July

Archive Management for the President's Office

Document Log

Reference # : Archive-00578

1235

Edit

Print

A. CLASSIFICATION

- ☒ Meeting Material
- ☐ Trips
- ☐ Speeches

- ☐ Annual Meetings
- ☐ Corporate Management
- ☐ Communications with Staff

- ☐ Phone Logs
- ☐ Calendar
- ☐ Press Clippings/Photos

- ☐ JDW Transcripts
- ☐ Social Events
- ☐ Other

B. SUBJECT: MR. AYALA LASSO, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

DATE: 07/24/96

VENUE: E1227 (CONF. RM.)

CONTACT: MIKE STEVENS @ 37493 (ASST: VICKI VIRAY)

IN ATTENDANCE: JDW, MMB, SHIHATA, MIKE STEVENS

UN ATTENDEES:

MR. AYALA LASSO, HIGH COMMISSIONER

MR. ZDISLAW KEDZIA (PRONOUNCED KENJA), SENIOR

ADVISER

MR. JOHN PACE, HEAD OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

EXC: JOSIE // ALI (7/16/96 2:08p)

C. VPU

Corporate

- ☐ CTR
- ☐ EXT
- ☐ LEG
- ☐ MPS
- ☐ OED
- ☐ SEC/Board
- ☐ TRE

Regional

- ☐ AFR
- ☐ EAP
- ☐ ECA
- ☐ LAC
- ☐ MNA
- ☐ SAS

Central

- ☐ CFS
- ☐ DEC
- ☐ ESD
- ☐ FPD
- ☐ FPR
- ☐ HRO

Affiliates

- ☐ GEF
- ☐ ICSID
- ☐ IFC
- ☐ Inspection Panel
- ☐ Kennedy Center
- ☐ MIGA

D. EXTERNAL PARTNER

- ☐ IMF
- ☒ UN
- ☐ MDB/Other IO
- ☐ NGO
- ☐ Private Sector

- ☐ Part I
- ☐ Part II
- ☐ Other

A L L - I N - 1 N O T E

DATE: 26-Jul-1996 07:12

TO: Miko Nkungula

(MIKO NKUNGULA)

FROM: Josie Bassinette, EXC

(JOSIE BASSINETTE)

EXT.: 80240

SUBJECT: Please put in archives with Alaya Lasso visit

A L L - I N - 1 N O T E

DATE: 26-Jul-1996 01:04 EST

TO: JOSIE BASSINETTE (JOSIE BASSINETTE@A1@WBWASH)

FROM: Mike Stevens, PSP (MIKE STEVENS@A1@WBHQB)

EXT.: 37493

SUBJECT: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Josie,

You asked me for my notes on the meeting of Mr Jose Ayala Lasso with JDW on July 24 at 11.30 pm. Also present were: UNCHR/CHR John Pace, Zdzislaw Kedjia, WB Shihata, Malloch Brown, Stevens. The atmosphere of the meeting was warm and positive.

Mr Ayala-Lasso began by saying that he believed the Bank was doing extraordinarily good work in the area of HR. But he and his staff needed to understand this better, there was therefore a need for a dialogue. There was also a need to share views on the "right to development".

JDW said that he had reached out to the UN system, meeting with heads of agencies, clarifying what each agency was doing and how they related to one another.

The Bank is meeting the basic HR needs of people in the areas of health and education. But in doing so, it does not use the language of HR. The Bank's Board would be sensitive to this, and the Bank does not have a mandate to stop lending because of HR violations. (In the case of a recent prospective IFC loan to Nigeria the Bank - the only UN organization to take action following the hanging of Ken Saro-Iwo - used an economic reason not to lend).

Mr Ayala-Lasso explained how he conducted his dialogue with countries on HR issues in a cooperative rather than confrontational manner. There should be ways of conveying economic benefits to countries with good HR records. The Bank's CAS could contain information on the country's HR record.

Describing some of UNCHR's country programs, Mr Ayala-Lasso explained how the Office was funding HR education in Malawi, including for the police.

In discussing the rights of the child, JDW said that this was raised recently with him by Congress. Mr Shihata said he had recently written a paper on the subject.

Mr Ayala-Lasso described a recent visit to Tunisia, to discuss HR with the government and to give support to the Arab Institute for HR. He had raised with the President of Tunisia the need to improve the HR record. He considered the visit very successful.

In connection with UNCHR's support to HR NGOs in countries, JDW explained that since the Bank lent only to governments, it was difficult to fund a network of NGOs to undertake HR education.

JDW said that the Bank was active in Arab countries helping economic development. For future visits by the High Commissioner, the Bank could provide Mr Ayala-Lasso with economic information.

In Latin America Mr Ayala-Lasso was arranging with ECLA a regional meeting of the national planning institutions to discuss HR strategies, and would keep JDW informed.

JDW, in conclusion, said that staff of the UNCHR/CHR were welcome to visit the Bank and familiarise themselves with the large amount of country information available.

Hope this helps.

Mike

CC: Lisa Pachter
CC: LOUIS FORGET

(LISA PACHTER@A1@WBHQB)
(LOUIS FORGET@A1@WBWASH)

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 11, 1996

TO: James D. Wolfensohn

FROM: Mark Malloch Brown, UNAVP

EXTENSION: 85914

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. I would like to propose that you meet with Mr. Ayala Lasso, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on July 24, 1996. He and other members of the UN Commission will be visiting the Bank for two days.

2. In cooperation with the Legal Department and the Public Sector Management Unit in the Poverty and Social Policy Department, we have arranged an informal seminar (July 24-25) to exchange views and learn about each other's work.

3. During the Seminar we will brief the Commission on our poverty, education, health and gender programs, and how these contribute to the attainment of social and economic rights. We will also explain the Bank's policies on resettlement and indigenous peoples, and what we have been doing to assist countries emerging from conflict. We, on our side, are interested in learning about the work of the UN High Commissioner and his Office and their perspectives on human rights and development. This appears to be an opportune time to discuss these key issues. Mr. Ayala Lasso is a jurist and has been ambassador from Ecuador to a number of countries, and was appointed to his present position in 1994.

4. Mr. Shihata will address the upcoming seminar. UNCHR is interesting in discussing the issues raised in his speech at the UN Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993) and his writings on the Bank and Human Rights issues. Mr. Shihata and I will attend your meeting with Mr. Ayala Lasso.

cc: Messrs./Mmes. I. Shihata (LEGVP); L. Forget (LEGAD); J. Bassinette (EXC);
I. Husain (PSP); J. Armitage (PSP); M. Stevens; J. Maguire (EXTVP)

LPachter:lmw
July 11, 1996 9:02 AM

Int. 1895

now
We've set up a
meeting for you
(30 mins.) on July
24. group
7/11

mwz

soon

— I would add he is not considered particularly impressive; rather a

copy of
Bachchan-Ghali's.

nevertheless, the
issues he covers
obviously are
important



Record Removal Notice

File Title President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings and Events - Mr Ayala Lasso - United Nations [UN] High Commissioner for Human Rights - July 24, 1996		Barcode No. 30484986		
Document Date July 17, 1996	Document Type Memorandum			
Correspondents / Participants To: James Wolfensohn From: Ibrahim F. I. Shihata				
Subject / Title Your Meeting with Mr. Ayala Lasso, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (on July 24, 1996)				
Exception(s) Attorney-Client Privilege				
Additional Comments		The item(s) identified above has/have been removed in accordance with The World Bank Policy on Access to Information or other disclosure policies of the World Bank Group.		
		<table border="1"><tr><td>Withdrawn by S. Thompson</td><td>Date February 13, 2025</td></tr></table>	Withdrawn by S. Thompson	Date February 13, 2025
Withdrawn by S. Thompson	Date February 13, 2025			

Bios

ROUTING SLIP Lisa Pachter INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS (UNAVP)		Date: July 23, 1996	
NAME		ROOM NO.	
Ms. Josie Bassinette, EXC		E 1231	
	URGENT		For action/comment
✓	Per your request		Appropriate disposition
	Information/discard		Returned
	Approval/clearance		Note and return
	See my E-mail		Per our conversation
	Signature/initial		File
SUBJECT: MR. WOLFENSOHN'S MEETING WITH MR. JOSE AYALA LASSO			
ATTENDEES: Attached please find the bios of Messrs. Zdzislaw Kedzia, Senior Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and John Pace, Chief ad interim of the Research and Policy Analysis Branch, who will accompany Mr. Ayala Lasso to his meeting with Mr. Wolfensohn tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. <u>Bank attendees are:</u> Mr. Ibrahim Shihata, Senior Vice President and General Counsel Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Vice President, External and UN Affairs Mr. Michael Stevens, Public Sector Management, Poverty and Social Policy cc: Mr. M. Malloch Brown (EXTVP); Ms. J. Armitage (PSP)			
Lisa Pachter <i>LP</i>		Rm. U 11-013	Ext. 31775

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Biographical Note

BIO/2840*

HR/3937

14 February 1994

ASSEMBLY NAMES JOSE AYALA LASSO, OF ECUADOR, AS
FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The General Assembly this morning approved the appointment of José Ayala Lasso as the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for a four-year term, effective 28 February 1994.

A national of Ecuador, Mr. Ayala Lasso has been his country's permanent representative to the United Nations since 1989. He also served as Ecuador's permanent representative to the Security Council during 1991 and 1992 and was president of the Council during August 1991 and September 1992. In 1992, he was chairman of the Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991), concerning the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ayala Lasso chaired the working group which considered the establishment of a post of high commissioner for human rights and other aspects of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which emerged from the World Conference on Human Rights (1993). The result was a consensus resolution creating the post, adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993.

Mr. Ayala Lasso has served as his country's Ambassador to Peru, Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Economic Community (EEC), and has held several other foreign affairs positions at the Embassies of Ecuador to Japan, Republic of Korea, China and Italy. He was Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1977.

Over the course of his diplomatic career, Mr. Ayala Lasso headed the Ecuador delegation to the 1978 and 1977 sessions of the General Assembly and the meeting of the "Group of 77" developing countries, the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, among other meetings. He has also participated in the Ecuadorian delegation to numerous other international conferences and meetings.

(more)

* This release supersedes BIO/2400 dated 12 May 1989.
7724P

Press Release BIO/2840..
HR/3937
14 February 1994

In addition to his diplomatic posts, he has taught at the International Law Institute of the Universidad Central del Ecuador and served as Deputy Legal Secretary of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, and as Vice-President of the Ecuadorian National Commission of the Alliance for Progress. He has published articles relating to international affairs in newspapers and journals and is currently preparing a book on the Security Council.

Mr. Ayala Lasso holds degrees in law and economics, international law, political and social sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, the Universidad Central del Ecuador and the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

Mr. Ayala Lasso has been decorated as a Commander of the National Order of Merit of Ecuador, as well as receiving various decorations from Japan, Peru, Sweden, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, Hungary, Venezuela and Belgium.

Born in Quito, Ecuador, on 29 January 1932, Mr. Ayala Lasso is married and has four children.

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Record Removal Notice

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Document Date [undated]	Document Type CV / Resumé			
Correspondents / Participants				
Subject / Title Zdzislaw Kedzia John P. Pace				
Exception(s) Personal Information				
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