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GAZARIAN -- JEAN BERNARD.

We mourn the sudden passing of Jean Gazarian on January 18, 2016, an international civil servant who, working under every Secretary-General of the United Nations, spent over six decades dedicated to world peace. A mentor to so many, a true humanitarian, a gentle and kind man, he was highly respected for his integrity and generosity, and inspired love and affection to all those who met him. As a former director at Drew University expressed: "When he talked, everyone listened." Jean Gazarian joined the United Nations in 1946, when he was 24. He served first as a translator, then as an editor and, in 1959, was called to work in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to deal with

General Assembly affairs. In 1966, he became Director of the Division of the General Assembly Affairs, a position he held for 18 years. A witness to many world events, he met kings and queens, and presidents, but always remained humble. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, Senior Fellow at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), told the UN News Centre: "He was absolutely unique as a person. His knowledge, his devotion to the UN and the manner in which he inspired love and affection among thousands of UN diplomats and staff members made him a prince among men." While working for the General Assembly, he traveled extensively as secretary and coordinator of conferences, held in Geneva, Oslo, Vienna, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Managua, Jakarta, Guatemala, etc. He also assisted Secretary-General U Thant during his official visit in 1970 to eleven Francophone African countries, where he served as his interpreter. From 1983 to 1985, Jean was Principal Advisor to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and to the President of the General Assembly. From 1985 to 1986, he was Director of the Office for the Commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the United Nations. In 1986, he was Secretary of the High Level Intergovernmental Group of Experts regarding the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. In 1987, Jean Gazarian became a Senior Fellow of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), where he taught for 25 years a large number of diplomats through training programs and seminars. He was one of the pioneers of Model UN, spoke to large assemblies of students from all over the world, and was an instrumental figure of the "UN Semester" co-organized by Drew University. Jean Gazarian was recognized by governments and universities for his outstanding contribution to the United Nations and world peace: Officier de l'Ordre de La Pleiade, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (1977). Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Legion d'honneur, France (1984). Grand Officier de l'Ordre de Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama (1984). Doctor of Letters, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia (1986). Doctor of Laws, Bentley College, Waltham, Massachusetts (1996). Doctor en Administration de la Paix, Cercle de Reflexion des Nations (2004). Doctor of Humane Letters, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey (2007). On December 4, 2013, Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, honored Jean Gazarian during the 50th anniversary of UNITAR. Jean Gazarian is survived by his brother, Pierre Gazarian, columnist for The Suffolk Times, and his sister, Marie-Lise Gazarian, Director of the Graduate Program in Spanish, St. John's University, and the Mirimanoff family, from Geneva, Switzerland. A Prayer Service, at the Church of the Holy Family, United Nations Parish, was held on Friday, January 29, where friends, colleagues and family paid tribute to Jean Gazarian.