

United Nations Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

19 September 2000

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Harri Holkeri,
President of the 55th Session of the General Assembly,
on the occasion of a Special screening of the CNN documentary
"Soldiers of Peace"**

I would like to address my words to the group of Colombian children, seated next to me. Earlier today, another group of children gave me a very special gift, 50 million signatures from people all over the world campaigning for the culture of peace. I feel very privileged for having received such a gift and I have today joined the campaign. By signing I recommit myself to respect all life and to reject violence.

Dear children, thank you for making this day so unique. Your active role in the peace movement in Colombia proves that it is possible to break free from the circle of violence. Children are not only victims of conflicts, but they can express their will for peace and justice. Joined together, you have an enormous amount of energy to advance forgiveness and a culture of peace. I would like to encourage you to continue your efforts.