

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
Mrs Sipila in the 3rd Com.  
on behalf of the Western  
Countries.

Madam Chairman,

It is a privilege for me to be able to thank you tonight, on behalf of the group of Western European and Other States, for your leadership of the Third Committee during this session of the General Assembly.

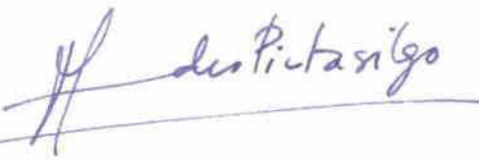
Your chairmanship has always been marked, in all our meetings, by the straightforward courage and the kind patience that, when blended together, speak of greatness in a human person. Your unceasing desire to encompass and do justice to all positions and cultures could only be matched by your own lucidity of judgement - a hard balance that you seem to accomplish rather spontaneously, Madam Chairman, and which we would like to see in all those committed to build the international community.

The difficult moments that the Committee had to face, even its frustration for not having done more and better, when analysed against the background of your continuous efforts to keep a sense of direction in relation to the goals to be achieved and to let participation of all to be expressed at all times, may only have left the Committee with a great respect for yourself and, at times, with the realization of the inadequacy of some of our structures.

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It takes, indeed, a long time for the international community to learn that democracy demands the respect for the personal embodiment of communal responsibility as much as it requires the participation of everyone concerned.

I don't want to embarrass you, Madam Chair~~man~~, and I will not say much more. Allow me, however, to finish by thanking you for something in your attitude that touched me deeply. You have been throughout this session a living example of what you said beautifully this morning in the plenary session. You have shown that the implementation of human rights start, with us, with every one of us. Because you appeared to me as a woman fully free in the exercise of her human rights, because you did not discriminate towards any delegate on account of her (or his) nationality, because you were equally open to the powerless and the "blameful" as well as to the strong and "righteous", because you have shown that you did deserve to have a leading role in the Commission of Human Rights, I DO THANK YOU, Madam Chairman.

  
J. de Pictarigo