



Biography of Mr. Jan Kavan, President of the 57th Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Jan Kavan, President of the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, brings to the post political skills built on a lifetime of experience, both in the Czech Republic and throughout his 20 years of political exile in the United Kingdom. An advocate of democracy and human rights, he served as the Czech Republic's Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and Security Policy from 1999 to 2002 and as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1998 to 2002. He is currently a Deputy in the Czech Parliament.

While Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Kavan also served as his country's representative to the European Union's Convention on the Future of Europe, holding the posts of Vice-President of the State Security Council, Chairman of the Committee for Intelligence Activities and Executive Vice-Chairman of the Government Committee for European Integration. Between 1996 and 2000, he represented the Czech Social Democratic Party as a Senator in the upper House of Parliament.

An active member of various Czech and international non-governmental organizations, in the 1990s, Mr. Kavan served for six years as Chairman, and later as Vice-Chairman, of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA) in the Czech Republic and for three years as a member of the Executive Council of the International HCA. In 1993, he founded the Policy Centre for the Promotion of Democracy in the Czech Republic, which he still heads.



On returning to Prague from political exile in November 1989, Mr. Kavan joined the Civic



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