

GB.287/10 287th Session

Governing Body

Geneva, June 2003

TENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

Mr. Thomas Burch Moorhead

- **1.** The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 27 April 2003, of Mr. Thomas Burch Moorhead, representative of the Government of the United States on the Governing Body.
- 2. Born in 1934 in Evanston, Illinois, Mr. Moorhead studied in the United States, graduating from Yale University and, in 1959, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He continued his postgraduate studies at New York University, obtaining a master's degree in international business law, and completed his studies on international law in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- **3.** A lawyer by training, Mr. Moorhead quickly became one of the most respected figures in business in the United States. His profound knowledge of international economic and labour issues led him to high-level posts in a number of major American companies, including Estée Lauder, Beker Industries and finally Carter Wallace in New York, where he earned an international reputation as an expert on the world of work in his capacity as vice-president of human resources at international level.
- **4.** On five occasions (in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 2001) Mr. Moorhead was a member of the United States delegation to the International Labour Conference, as a delegate or as an Employers' adviser. He made a particularly valuable contribution to discussions at the Fourteenth American Regional Meeting (24-27 August 1999) and the Thirteenth Asian Regional Meeting (28-31 August 2001), when he led his country's Employers' delegates. His appointment in June 2000 as Employer Vice-President of the International Labour Conference was a measure of the esteem in which he had come to be held by the ILO's three groups of constituents.
- 5. In September 2001, he was appointed Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Affairs of the United States, and in that capacity was appointed to be the representative of the Government of the United States on the ILO Governing Body. In 2002, he led the United States Government delegation on the Governing Body and participated in the International Labour Conference as Government delegate.

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- **6.** Mr. Moorhead was universally respected for his wisdom, perceptiveness and fairmindedness. All those who had the privilege of knowing him or working with him will remember him for his total commitment to tripartism, his political skills and his profound humanity.
- 7. The Governing Body will no doubt request the Director-General to convey its sympathy to the family of Mr. Moorhead and to the Government of the United States.

Geneva, 3 June 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.

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