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Press Release SG/SM/301
CYP/271

19 May 1965

TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
TO SECRETARY-GENERAL ON COSTS OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a note verbale, dated 18 May 1965, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the acting Permanent Observer of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, Fritz Caspari:

"The Acting Permanent Observer of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's note dated 25 March 1965 -- FI 323/3 (18) -- has the honour to inform him that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has decided to make a further contribution of \$500,000 to the costs of the United Nations Peace-keeping Operation in Cyprus.

"This additional sum is made available for the fifth three-month period of UNFICYP authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 201 (1965) of 19 March 1965."

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Press Release SG/SM/309
SC/2717

18 May 1965

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION
IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On 14 May 1965 the Security Council adopted a resolution concerning the situation in the Dominican Republic, expressing deep concern at the grave events in the country; calling for strict cease-fire; inviting the Secretary-General to send, as an urgent measure, a representative to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of reporting on the present situation; and calling upon all concerned in the Dominican Republic to co-operate with the representative of the Secretary-General in the carrying out of this task.

My representative, to whom I have entrusted the message, will arrive in the Dominican Republic today, 18 May 1965, and I have asked him, as a first and most urgent step, to notify formally all the parties concerned of the Security Council's call for strict cease-fire.

Peaceful means are the only ones which can bring about a lasting settlement of the conflict now besetting the Dominican Republic, and no effort should be spared, by those concerned, to put an end to the fighting which has caused already so much bloodshed and destruction.

I wish, therefore, to convey to all those involved in the conflict in the Dominican Republic my most pressing and earnest appeal to heed the call of the Security Council for an immediate cessation of hostilities as an essential step in bringing about a propitious atmosphere in which a solution may be found to the grave difficulties facing the Dominican Republic.

* *** *

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Press Release SG/A/24
15 May 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF MAYOBRE
AS REPRESENTATIVE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Secretary-General, U Thant, announced today the appointment of Jose Antonio Mayobre, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), as his Representative in the Dominican Republic pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 14 May 1965.

Mr. Mayobre, who is at present in Mexico City in connexion with the present meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America, is expected to come to New York on 16 May for discussions with the Secretary-General and leave for Santo Domingo on 17 May.

Born in Venezuela on 21 August 1913, Mr. Mayobre obtained the doctorate degrees in law and economics from the Central University of Venezuela. He also studied at the London School of Economics.

Mr. Mayobre held several posts with the United Nations from 1951 to 1958, among them that of Chief of the Division of Economic Development of ECLA. In 1960, he was appointed Ambassador of Venezuela to the United States and Representative of Venezuela to the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Mr. Mayobre became Commissioner for Industrial Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs from 1 June 1962 and on 13 August 1963 assumed the post of Executive Secretary of ECLA.

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Note No. 3132
14 May 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The advance party of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic will leave New York by air at 11:59 p.m. tonight for the Dominican Republic via Puerto Rico.

Members of the advance party are:

Major General I.J. Rikhye, Military Adviser to the Secretary-General;
George Howard, Political Adviser;
Amada Segarra, Political Affairs Officer; and
Cesar Ortiz-Tinoco, Information Officer.

* * * * *

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Press Release SG/SM/300
15 May 1965

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CYCLONE DISASTER IN PAKISTAN

The following is the text of a message sent today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Minister for External Affairs of Pakistan, Z.A. Bhutto:

"I have learned with deep sadness of the news of the cyclone disaster which struck East Pakistan. Please convey to your Government, to the families of the victims and to the people of Pakistan my sincere sympathy in this hour of grief.

"I have asked the Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board in Pakistan, Thomas F. Power, Jr. to hold consultations with the appropriate departments of the Government of Pakistan in order to determine if it requires any assistance which the United Nations and the specialized agencies would be in a position to give."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/SM/299
SC/2715
14 May 1965

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL
REGARDING HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Following is the text of the statement made by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at the afternoon meeting of the Security Council on 14 May:

"I wish to inform the members of the Security Council that in pursuance of the task entrusted to me by the resolution adopted at this morning's session, certain actions are being taken.

"Immediately, of course, I have begun to seek a man of appropriate calibre and qualifications, including language facility, to serve as my Representative in the Dominican Republic, as the resolution calls for. I hope to be able shortly to report progress on this to the Council.

"In view of the urgency of the Dominican situation and to avoid any loss of time, I have decided to send out a small advance party of three or four Secretariat staff members who will proceed to the Dominican Republic without delay and prepare the way on the spot for the early arrival of my Representative. This advance party of Secretariat members will be led by Major-General Indarjit Rikhye, who is my Military Adviser, and it will be departing from New York tonight."

* *** *

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

Not to be used before 6 a.m. EDT
(1000 hours GMT) Monday, 17 May

Press Release SG/SM/298

ITU/90

14 May 1965

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CENTENARY
OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Following is a message sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, on the occasion of the celebration in Paris of the centenary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU):*

"It is a privilege to address you today by means of a telecommunications satellite.

"For all of us who work in and with the family of United Nations organizations, this is a milestone -- and a milestone of very considerable importance.

"We all know something of what the International Telecommunication Union has accomplished in keeping abreast of a century of bewildering technical advance; we know what it has meant to the nations to have such a means of maintaining order and pursuing clarity, reason and justice in the realm of international communications.

"The Governments of 1865, who had the simple telegraph, found they had need of such a body. We can only imagine what chaos there would be today without the ITU, when our means of communications are immeasurably more complex and sophisticated, when we project ideas and images from one continent to another, when all the space around our planet has become a vast and crowded electronic highway where human needs compete with each other for space and time.

(more)

* The message will be sent on Monday morning via the Early Bird satellite. The celebration of the ITU centenary is being held in the Salon de l'Horloge in Paris, in the same room where the Convention on the International Telegraph Union was signed on 17 May 1865. The International Telegraph Union became the International Telecommunication Union in 1932. Present at the ceremony will be Maurice Couve de Murville, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, and Jacques Marette, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications. Also present will be Ambassadors representing 14 original signatories to the Convention in 1865. They are the Ambassadors of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, USSR, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

14 May 1965

"This work we know and value. Perhaps some of us know less well the story of ITU's efforts to help developing nations build and improve their communications networks and train their technical staff. Last year, through the various United Nations assistance programmes, 116 experts were sent out to scores of countries. It is appropriate to mark the ITU's centenary in this International Co-operation Year as we observe the achievements of co-operation in advancing the cause of peace and human welfare.

"We have yet another reason to mark this centenary; and it is one which could not have been apparent to the pioneers of a hundred years ago. The Convention of 1865 bound its signatories to exchange technical information. They did this at first haphazardly; so after a few years the Governments agreed that it was best done through a small office, with a permanent staff.

"So, from the initiative of France, from the vision of those who met in your room a hundred years ago, began the first established inter-governmental organization, one of the humble origins from which we can trace today's family of United Nations agencies and the developments of new and more practical ways of doing some important things.

"I emphasize the word practical, because quite apart from the ideals and aims they represent, the international organizations exist today because they are needed, and because they work. A century of experience has shown that for many tasks which nations require to be accomplished, a multilateral approach is recognized as being the best. Further, there are imperatives in the present day world which, for the common good, are best entrusted to men and women who have sworn to discharge their duties and to regulate their conduct with the interests of all nations in mind.

"We salute the International Telecommunication Union on its hundredth anniversary because it has carried out important technical responsibilities and because of the original contribution it has made to the co-operative approach which is the basis of the work of the United Nations as a whole."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/SM/297
14 May 1965 SC/2713

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON 14 MAY

"In accordance with the resolution which has just been adopted by the Security Council, I need to say only that I will carry out the wishes of the Council as quickly as possible.

"I shall, of course, keep the Security Council informed about the steps which I will be taking.

"The difficulties in carrying out this mandate are apparent and I need not elaborate upon them.

"I expect to receive full co-operation from all those concerned in carrying out the task entrusted to me by the Security Council."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/SM/296
SC/2711

13 May 1965

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN SECURITY COUNCIL
REGARDING CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"1. In the light of the statement by the President I would like to make a report to the Council on the recent developments concerning representation of the Dominican Republic in the United Nations.

"2. On 5 May 1965 a cable signed by Dr. Jottin Cury, 'Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic', was received by me informing me that the 'Constitutional Government' of the Dominican Republic had designated Dr. Moises de Soto, Alternate Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, as Representative ad interim until a replacement to Dr. Guaroa Velazquez, who had been relieved of his functions, was appointed.

"3. On 10 May 1965 I received a cable from the 'Government of National Reconstruction', confirming the appointment of Ambassador Guaroa Velazquez as Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations. The message was signed by:

"General Antonio Imbert Barreras, President;

"Mr. Carlos Grisolia Poloney, Member;

"Mr. Alejandro Zeller Cocco, Member;

"Col. Pedro Bartolome Benoit, Member;

"Mr. Julio D. Postigo, Member.

"4. On the same date, 10 May, I received a communication signed by Ambassador Guaroa Velazquez informing me that on 7 May 1965 a 'Government of National Reconstruction' had been established in the Dominican Republic as follows:

"General Antonio Imbert Barreras, President;

"Mr. Carlos Grisolia Poloney, Member;

"Mr. Alejandro Zeller Cocco, Member;

"Col. Pedro Bartolome Benoit, Member;

"Mr. Julio D. Postigo, Member.

(more)

13 May 1965

The communication further informed me that Dr. Horacio Vicioso Soto had been appointed by the above-mentioned government as 'Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs', and that the government had confirmed Ambassador Velazquez as Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations.

"5. Also on 10 May 1965, I received a cable signed by Dr. Jottin Cury, 'Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic', referring to his earlier cable of 5 May and informing me that the 'Constitutional Government' had appointed Mr. Ruben Brache as Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and requesting that this cable be accepted as provisional credentials for Mr. Brache.

"6. On 10 May 1965, a cable was received by me signed by Dr. Horacio Vicioso Soto, 'Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs', informing that the 'Government of National Reconstruction' of the Dominican Republic had confirmed Mr. Guaroa Velazquez as Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and requesting that Mr. Velazquez be recognized as such until the receipt of formal credentials. The message also informed that Mr. Guaroa Velazquez had been appointed and authorized to represent the Dominican Republic before the Security Council of the United Nations in the discussions concerning the present situation in the Dominican Republic. In addition, there is a cable dated today, addressed to the President of the Security Council, to which he has just referred.

"7. From the statements which have been made in the Security Council and the communications received from the Organization of American States concerning the Dominican Republic, it is apparent that the situation in that country is far from clear as to which of the contending authorities constitutes the government of the country. Furthermore, there is no information available as to which of the contending authorities is regarded as the government by a majority of States Members of the United Nations.

"8. In the light of the circumstances mentioned above, I feel that at this stage I do not have sufficient information to formulate any opinion as to the adequacy of the provisional credentials which have been submitted."

* *** *

U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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Note No. 3130
12 May 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPLIES TO QUERIES BY PRESS

AT GENEVA AIRPORT, 2 MAY 1965

Q. Can you tell us something about your meetings here with Mr. Scott and Gen. Thimayya?

A. Yes. I had a meeting with Mr. Scott^{*} on a question of mutual interest to his Government and the United Nations, and with Gen. Thimayya of course I exchanged views on the situation in Cyprus.

Q. Do you think, Sir, that the Cyprus situation is anywhere nearer a solution through a UN settlement?

A. There are two aspects to the question of Cyprus. One aspect is related to the day-to-day peace-keeping operation and the other aspect is related to the long-term political settlement. As far as the first aspect of the question is concerned, I believe the UN has been able to do a very splendid job. I think it is rather sorry that when hostilities broke out in Cyprus in December 1963 some of the big powers tried very properly to restore law and order in Cyprus without success. Then NATO quite legitimately attempted to restore law and order in Cyprus, again without success. Then the question was brought to the United Nations, after six weeks, and the Security Council took a decision and up till now the United Nations has been able to do in Cyprus what some of the big powers and NATO have not been able to do. That relates to the day-to-day operations in regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Cyprus. As for the long-term political settlement of Cyprus I am afraid it will take some time. In this context I want to pay a tribute to the UN mediator Mr. Galo Plaza for his very constructive and sensible report.

Q. Did you discuss the problem of Malaysia?

A. No, I did not discuss the question of Malaysia here with anybody.

Q. Have you any comments to make on the suggestion of President Bourguiba on the Middle East?

A. Regarding the question of the Middle East I think that I, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, have to confine my observations to the various resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly. I believe that a Secretary-General of the World Organization has to act and speak only within the four corners of the resolutions of the principal organs of the United Nations. So apart from this I do not want to comment. Thank you very much.

* Mr. C.P. Scott is the United Kingdom Permanent Representative in Geneva.

United Nations Secretary-General's replies to queries by Press
at Geneva Airport, 2 May 1965

As you all know, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to cut short my stay in Geneva because of the reasons I mentioned in my statement issued last night. I am very sorry to have to leave Geneva much earlier than I had planned. The Security Council, as you know, is meeting tomorrow morning and I feel that I have to be present when the Security Council meets. So I will be very happy to answer any questions.

What is the main reason for your recall?

Actually it is not a recall. I got a report last night from Headquarters in New York that the Security Council has to meet on Monday morning, as you know, on the question of the Dominican Republic. And the question of Southern Rhodesia is also to be discussed, because that question was discussed on Friday and a second meeting of the Security Council was scheduled for Monday morning. So, since both these questions are very important, I have been advised that I should come back.

Sir, how do you feel about the situation in the Dominican Republic?

Well, according to newspaper reports, the situation seems to be very serious. I understand that many Latin American countries also view the situation with serious concern. I hope that the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility to maintain peace and security, will be able to contribute to the solution of the problem there. Of course, with due regard to the wishes of the people of that country.

Sir, do you feel that the whole problem could be taken out from the Security Council and dealt with by the Organization of American States?

I believe the Organization of American States can play a very useful role as is evident from the constitution of the OAS. There are precedents, of course. In the case of the Congo, as you know, the Organization of African Unity has also been very much involved in seeking a peaceful solution to the problem of the Congo. In the same way I believe that the Organization of American States can play a very useful part. I understand that a delegation of the OAS is proceeding to the Dominican Republic this morning.

What if the Dominican Republic does not agree to have the problem taken over by the OAS?

Well it is very difficult, you know, to make any observation on this aspect, since I am not clear myself which Government, or which section of the authorities in the Dominican Republic, can legitimately speak for the country.

U. Thant, what would you say definitely about the possibilities of the Secretariat of the United Nations Trade and Development Board coming to Geneva?

I think there are very great possibilities. I have been looking forward to discussing this question with Foreign Minister Mr. Wahlen on Tuesday. Unfortunately, I will not have an opportunity to discuss with him, but I believe there are definite possibilities of the Secretariat of the Trade and Development Board coming over to Geneva.

- Q. What are your views on the Viet-Nam situation, Mr. Secretary-General?
- A. I left New York about 6 days ago and I have been following only the newspaper reports. The situation is, of course, far from good. If my interpretation is correct, the situation is going from bad to worse. As I have been saying all along, military methods will not bring about a peaceful solution of the problem of Viet-Nam. Only diplomatic and political methods of discussions and negotiations can bring about a lasting peace in Viet-Nam. Of course I will continue my efforts to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution.
- Q. Are you in favour of a conference on the Cambodian situation as has been proposed by France and the Soviet Union?
- A. I am.
- Q. Do you think the developments in the Dominican Republic will affect the situation in South Viet-Nam?
- A. I am not sufficiently familiar with the background of events in the Dominican Republic, so I don't think I can justifiably comment on this.
- Q. What do you think about American intervention in the Dominican Republic?
- A. I will have to study the question much more closely to be able to give a fair reply to this.
- Q. Is it possible for the United Nations to send a police force to the Dominican Republic?
- A. The question is now before the Security Council, as I have just said. The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. I very much hope the Security Council will be able to adopt a resolution which will contribute towards a peaceful solution to this problem.
- Q. Mr. Thant, when you said we here will have a conference on disarmament, how long do you think the Commission will be meeting in New York?
- A. The disarmament commission is now in session in New York. I think it may take perhaps four to five weeks and I very much hope that the discussions in the Disarmament Commission in New York would lead to the convening of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament here.

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Press Release SG/1650
ECAFE/276

11 May 1965

MEKONG COMMITTEE NOTES INTEREST IN EXPANSION
OF WORK, POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Issues Communique on Extraordinary Session in Bangkok

The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, at an extraordinary session held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 10 and 11 May, has noted the interest recently manifested in many quarters in increasing its resources and expanding its development schemes, and has proposed a change in its terms of reference and a change of name in order to meet the new circumstances.

These developments were reported to the Secretary-General, U Thant, today, in a personal cable received by him from Trinh Ngoc Sanh, Chairman of the Mekong Committee for 1965 and member of the Committee for the Republic of Viet-Nam.

The cable reproduces the text of a communique issued by the Committee after its extraordinary session, which was held to consider "ways of augmenting the capability of the United Nations" to give effect to development projects sponsored by the Committee.

In the communique, the Committee speaks of its "rapidly growing work" relating to projects on the mainstream of the Lower Mekong and its tributaries; states that requirements are outstripping resources already pledged; and expresses satisfaction at the increasing interest in making additional resources available.

At its session, the Committee was informed that the United States would be prepared, under certain circumstances, to make a commitment relating to the financing of a multipurpose development project on the Nam Ngum tributary in Laos to which the Committee has assigned high priority.

The Committee reiterated priority for a number of other projects and expressed hope that the Secretary-General of the United Nations could find ways to aid in their implementation.

(more)

11 May 1965

Text of Communique

Following is the text of the communique issued by the Committee on 11 May upon completion of its extraordinary session in Bangkok:

"1. The Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam), operating under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), today concluded in Bangkok a two-day extraordinary session (twenty-eighth session, special).

"2. The meeting was called to consider, informally and without commitment, with Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs, possible ways and means of augmenting the capability of the United Nations to implement projects sponsored by the Mekong Committee, and related matters such as construction of the Asian Highway segments in the Mekong riparian countries, and the possible relationship between the Committee and the proposed Asian Development Bank. U Nyun, Executive Secretary of ECAFE; Dr. C. Hart Schaaf, the Committee's Executive Agent; the Resident Representatives and Directors of Special Fund projects in the four Mekong riparian countries; the Committee's Advisory Board; and other key members of the Secretariat of United Nations Headquarters, of ECAFE, and of the Mekong Committee participated also in the meeting. In addition, Mr. Thomas Niblock, representing Mr. Eugene Black, and representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development attended part of the session as observers.

"3. The Committee noted that its rapidly growing work is involving it, not only in numerous water resources development projects on the Mekong main-stream and on its tributaries (with five tributary projects already under construction), but also in many ancillary fields, including industrial and agricultural development activities, and mineral surveys; and that development of the Basin's water resources will require it to pay attention to and, on occasion, to supplement developmental activities in such fields as road and rail transport, public health, nutrition, education and social affairs. The Committee feels that its terms of reference should be expanded to reflect the widening fields with which it is concerned, and that its title should be formally altered, in line with usage increasingly employed for the past several years, to some such title as 'Committee for the Development of the Lower Mekong Basin', abbreviated as 'Mekong Development Committee'. The Committee

(more)

11 May 1965

instructed the secretariat to prepare an amended draft statute along these lines for consideration by the Committee at its next session, and for submission for ratification to the four Governments concerned. The amended statute is to retain the essential features of present Committee practices, in particular: concern with technical but not with political matters, no interest in assistance to which political conditions are attached, decision-making processes whereby no member of the Committee is ever asked to undertake or participate in any project not desired and approved by it, and determination to work for the benefit of all the people of the Lower Mekong Basin, without distinction as to politics or nationality.

"The Committee noted with keen satisfaction the increasing interest recently manifested in many quarters in augmenting the resources available for the implementation of the projects sponsored by it, as well as other related developmental projects in the four riparian countries. The Committee is highly appreciative of the some \$68 million equivalent pledged to date for its activities by the four riparian Governments themselves, 21 countries from outside the basin, 12 United Nations agencies, and by a number of private foundations and businesses; however, the Committee is aware that its objectives and requirements for development are outstripping such resources already pledged, and notes with interest that substantial additional resources may be made available to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for its work.

"5. The Committee listed a number of Mekong projects in water resources development and related fields, which the four riparian Governments regard as vital to economic development, and in which considerable although varying amounts of pre-investment work have already been carried out. This list includes projects already accorded priority by the Mekong Committee to a total of some \$71.5 million; the Pa Mong and Sambor* mainstream projects on which investigations are now advanced and hopefully will, within a few years, be at the point where serious financial discussions can begin, in an amount of about \$900 million; sectors within the Lower Mekong Basin of the proposed Asian Highway, in an initial amount of about \$70 million, rising to a total of some \$300 million in later years; and numerous other water resources development and related projects. The Committee plans to sift and, in some cases, to add to this list of projects, at its next session, in the light of its expanded terms of reference and after further consultations of the four Committee members with their four Governments.

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* For further details see background note at end of this press release.

11 May 1965

Meanwhile provisional priorities have been established within the list.

"6. Within the foregoing list, the Committee reiterated the top priority which it assigns to construction of the Nam Ngum* tributary project in Laos. This project, at an estimated cost of some \$27 million, will provide electric power for Vientiane and its environs, as well as irrigation for the Vientiane plain; in addition, the project will be able to export a modest amount of electric power to the north-east of Thailand, thereby having the dual advantage of providing a benefit for Thailand and simultaneously serving as an export earner for Laos. The Nam Ngum project will mark the first point within the Mekong development programme in which electric power becomes an international commodity moving across an international frontier, and thus becoming part of the international Mekong network.

Mr. Niblock conveyed to the meeting the desire of Mr. Eugene Black** to encourage the Mekong Committee and the Governments concerned in the development of the basin, and Mr. Black's keen interest in learning the views of the countries of the region regarding the form and type of assistance best suited to the needs of the Mekong project. With reference to Nam Ngum, Mr. Niblock expressed, on behalf of Mr. Black, the view that the United States would be prepared to make a commitment to grant half of the total cost of the first stage of the project, plus finance for the expansion of electric power distribution facilities, provided the Mekong Committee and the Government of Laos obtain grants from other sources for the remaining half of the cost; and assuming that Laos and Thailand enter into satisfactory arrangements for the sale to Thailand of Nam Ngum power; and assuming that any remaining technical and economic problems are resolved, including the determination that an adequate market will exist for Nam Ngum power. The Mekong Committee expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. Black for his communications.

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* For further details see background note at end of this press release.

**On 9 April 1965 the United Nations Secretary-General noted that President Lyndon B. Johnson had asked Mr. Black to get in touch with the Secretary-General in connexion with the need for co-operative development in South-East Asia, including the development of the Lower Mekong Basin. (See Note No. 3094 of 9 April.)

11 May 1965

"7. The Committee requested Mr. Narasimhan to transmit the list of projects referred to in paragraph 5 to U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and the Committee indicated that it would be deeply pleased if the Secretary-General could find ways and means to assist in its implementation. Mr. Narasimhan conveyed to the Committee the warm good wishes of the Secretary-General and felt that the Secretary-General would wish to inform the Committee at its next session of progress in obtaining such resources.

"8. The Committee decided to hold its 29th session (special) in Vientiane, Laos, Thursday and Friday, 12-13 August 1965."

Background Note on Mekong Development Programme

The international programme for the development of the Lower Mekong River Basin has been co-ordinated by the four-member Committee since its establishment in 1957 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

The 21 countries co-operating in the programme, with the four Committee members, are Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. (Eight of the countries have contributed through the Colombo Plan, and four countries of the Nordic Group have contributed jointly.)

Twelve United Nations agencies or units assist the Mekong Committee. They are the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), upon whose recommendation the Committee was established; the United Nations Special Fund, the Technical Assistance Board, the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Pa Mong and Sambor projects to which the communique of 11 May refers would provide power, irrigation and navigation development on the mainstream of the Lower Mekong:

Pa Mong (Laos): On the basis of present information, the Committee states in its annual report for 1964, "it is hoped that the project can irrigate something

(more)

11 May 1965

like one million hectares of land (2.5 million acres) in the north-east of Thailand and Laos and can have, if desired, an installed capacity of over one million KW of power". Its reservoir would "facilitate upstream navigation for a considerable distance".

Sambor (Cambodia): With a generating capacity of 620,000 KW foreseen for the first stage, the project could provide electric power "for industrial, domestic and lighting purposes as well as extensive irrigation and drainage pumping, in Cambodia and in the Republic of Viet-Nam". Further, construction of a navigation lock "would eliminate the most difficult passages between Sambor and Strung Treng, and lead ultimately to a regular waterway connexion between Cambodia and Laos".

The five projects now in the construction stage, cited in the communique, are on five Mekong tributaries and will provide dams and power plants. The projects are:

- Nam Pong and Nam Pung, both in north-eastern Thailand, scheduled for completion in 1965, intended to provide power, irrigation and flood control;
- Prek Thnot, in Cambodia, west of Phnom Penh, for power, irrigation and flood control; and
- Lower Se Done, near Pakse in southern Laos, and Nam Dong, near Luang Prabang in northern Laos, to provide electricity.

Need for Nam Ngum Financing Stressed

In its annual report for 1964, the Mekong Committee expressed hope that international financing could be found for the high-priority project on the Nam Ngum tributary -- to which the new communique refers -- because of the importance of the proposed development and "owing to the exceedingly difficult balance-of-payments position in Laos".

The proposal calls for a multi-purpose undertaking about 70 kilometres (approximately 45 miles) north of Vientiane, Laos, to provide power production and irrigation at an estimated cost of \$27 million for the first stage. Thailand has indicated willingness to utilize part of the electricity, the report states.

(more)

11 May 1965

The Committee, in its annual report, expressed belief that the Nam Ngum project possessed "numerous supra-economic attractions", including the agreement "of the three political groups of Laos on the essential importance of this project for the economy of that country", as well as the fact that electricity would be supplied across a national border.

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[Additional background on the Mekong programme appears in Feature No. 14, issued in March 1965, and Feature No. 15 (April 1965), which was based on the annual report on the Committee. Copies of the annual report, document E/CN.11/679, are available at the United Nations Press Documents Counter.]

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(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/295
10 May 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING OF COSPAR

Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, which was read today, 10 May 1965, by Abdel H. Abdel-Ghani, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Group of the Political and Security Council Affairs Department of the Secretariat, to the eighth plenary meeting of COSPAR -- the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions -- in Buenos Aires, Argentina:

It is with great pleasure that I send my greetings to this, the eighth plenary meeting of COSPAR.

I should like at the same time to express my deep appreciation of the unique contribution which COSPAR has made and is making to the work of the United Nations and its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In discharging the broad responsibilities placed upon it by the General Assembly, the United Nations has made many calls on COSPAR and its officers for advice and assistance and on each occasion the requested co-operation has been generously supplied. I need not say that we for our part stand ready to provide whatever support we can appropriately offer for COSPAR's effort to further the progress of peaceful space research.

The sound co-operative relationship that has been established between COSPAR and the United Nations will, I am confident, be continued and strengthened in the future as the United Nations pursues its task of furnishing a focal point for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The task is a big one, but already encouraging steps have been taken in the drafting of legal principles and conventions, the dissemination and exchange of information, the encouragement

(more)

of international programmes, the creation of international sounding rocket facilities under United Nations sponsorship and measures to promote education and training in the space field. I am sure that in all the areas of concern to the international scientific community COSPAR and its members will continue to make a valuable contribution, in the form both of expert advice and assistance and of ideas and initiatives based on your successful experience in the organization of international space co-operation.

I extend to you my best wishes for the continued success of your work.

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Press Release SG/1649
7 May 1965

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND
AND SWAZILAND TO BE INVESTIGATED

The question of the economic needs of the British-administered Territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland has been the subject of discussions between the United Kingdom Government and the Secretary-General, U Thant, since the adoption, on 2 November 1964, by the Special Committee of 24, of the resolution on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland (document A/AC.109/103).

The Secretary-General announced today that he has accepted a United Kingdom invitation to nominate the Chairman and one member of a three-man team to visit the Territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland to investigate and advise upon the scope for additional economic and technical assistance to these Territories.

The Secretary-General has nominated as Chairman, M.E. Chacko, Director of the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories; and Myles Minchin, Chief of the Reports Section of that Department, as member. The third member, nominated by the United Kingdom, is P.S. McLean, formerly Under-Secretary for Development with the Government of Uganda.

The team will visit the Territories in May/June 1965.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
Not to be used before 12 noon (EDT)
Thursday, 6 May 1965

Press Release SG/SM/294
ECLA/77
5 May 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ELEVENTH SESSION
OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to be read by Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, at the opening of the eleventh session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)* tomorrow, 6 May, in Mexico City.

"This session of your Commission takes place at a time when both the Organization of which you are a part and the Latin American region itself, face grave issues.

"In this year dedicated to international co-operation, and with so much remaining to be done in relation to the yet modest objectives of the United Nations Development Decade, I believe that progress in economic and social co-operation under the banner of the United Nations is a strong reason for hope in a preoccupying situation.

"This Commission can take pride in the extent to which its past activities have laid the groundwork for new advances. Co-ordinated industrial development and, beyond it, economic integration, now loom large among the challenging endeavours deserving your special attention.

"I am convinced that, set as they are in the broadest context of international life, your discussions can provide inspiration to the Governments of all the countries of Latin America in their efforts to meet the increasingly urgent need for concerted and purposeful action towards faster economic growth and greater social well-being in the region.

"Please accept my warmest wishes for a harmonious and constructive session."

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* Background information on the ECLA session appears in press release ECLA/76 and Corr.1.

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Press Release SG/SM/293
4 May 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
FOREIGN MINISTER OF EL SALVADOR

The Secretary-General, U Thant, sent the following message today, 4 May 1965, to the Foreign Minister of El Salvador, Hector Escobar Serrano, through the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations:

"With deep sadness I have learned of the violent earthquake which occurred yesterday in the area of El Salvador, and which has occasioned considerable casualties and material damage. I am conveying to Your Excellency my sentiments of solidarity with the Government and people of El Salvador in this hour of great trial. I have asked the Regional Representative of the Technical Assistance Board in El Salvador, Mr. Luis Ramirez-Boettner, to hold consultations with the appropriate departments of the Government of El Salvador in order to determine if it requires any assistance which the United Nations and the specialized agencies would be in a position to give."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

Not to be used before 6:00 a.m. EDT
(1000 hours GMT) Tuesday, 4 May 1965

Press Release SG/SM/292
H/1847

3 May 1965

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL
AT OPENING OF WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, read to the World Health Assembly in Geneva on 4 May 1965 by the Director of the European Office of the United Nations, Pier P. Spinellic:

I had hoped to have been able to respond personally to the Director General's invitation to attend a World Health Assembly. However, pressing developments at United Nations Headquarters prevent me from being with you today.

Your Assembly takes place in 1965, the Year of International Co-operation. It is true that 1965 has begun in an atmosphere which is in many ways not congenial to co-operation. You are familiar with the major political issues that have beset us as a world community. You must also be aware of the problems relating to the United Nations' role in peace keeping which prevented the nineteenth session of the General Assembly from functioning in a normal way. Let me add that great efforts are at present being made to find solutions for these problems; and I should like you to know that I am encouraged by several recent developments and am reasonably confident that the most acute difficulties now facing us will be overcome.

If the maintenance of peace and security is primarily the concern of the United Nations, other members of the United Nations family of organizations have also a significant contribution to make to our common goal of peace and progress. The great work which the World Health Organization has already accomplished represents a distinguished contribution towards building the basis for a better world and a world at peace. One of the major preoccupations of the family of the United Nations is economic and social development. The interrelationship between health and development is complex but of undoubted significance. No one can

(more)

3 May 1965

doubt that the eradication of malaria, for example, can help to bring land under cultivation that would otherwise have remained fallow. The improvement of the level of health of factory workers can lead to spectacular increase in productivity. These are just two examples of the way in which the World Health Organization can, and does, assist directly in the economic development of the developing countries.

Your work, however, does not concern itself exclusively with the developing countries. I notice that you have, in several instances, thought it necessary to pay increased attention to the health problems resulting from a high level of economic development -- for example pollution, the increased use of drugs, road accidents, and some aspects of mental health. Your objectives form an essential part of those of the United Nations to promote, in the words of the Charter, "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

It is because we share these common objectives that we in the United Nations follow with such interest the deliberations of the World Health Assembly. On many matters we are collaborating closely. Let me give you a few examples: We are concerned, in the United Nations family, with many aspects of the utilization of water -- for power, for irrigation, for drinking. We need your help in ensuring that what is done to meet these ends takes due account of public health needs. Sometimes water projects, valuable in other respects, may create quite new health problems, and these, of course, must be prevented by taking your advice at a very early stage.

Similarly in housing programmes, we in the United Nations are anxious to facilitate and promote a vast expansion of low-cost housing, especially in the developing countries, but it would be indeed imprudent to approach this task except in close collaboration with you. Our joint aim is to ensure that housing is considered in the full context of urban and rural environment, that it is more than a mere provision of shelter, and that it makes a contribution to physical and mental health in the wide and positive meaning which the World Health Organization has always given to that phrase.

With those activities which are grouped under the familiar abbreviation UNICEF, your association is particularly close. It is scarcely less so in respect of programmes of community development, the social aspects of industrial development, programmes for youth, public administration, social services and a broad range of other fields, in which I think we can claim that there has been

(more)

3 May 1965

mutual support and benefit. My purpose in referring to these topics is not to expound what you already know so well -- that health questions are intimately bound up with economic and social questions -- but rather to call to mind that organizations, like men and women, are more likely to co-operate when they remember that they are all members of the same human family.

I believe that the area of our collaboration will continue to increase in the next few years. I know that broad new horizons are opening before this Organization, just as we see vast new possibilities for fruitful work of the United Nations itself and other members of the United Nations family. To cite one specific field, the United Nations is giving high priority to the application of the question of science and technology to development, and I have no doubt that we will need to work more and more closely together as the new opportunities created by scientific advance are exploited.

I am pleased on this visit to Geneva to see concrete evidence of WHO's promise for the future in the growth of your new headquarters. This building will, I am sure, when finished, be a symbol of deep significance to all of us.

Before closing I would like to reflect on one aspect of the work of individual doctors which bears some resemblance to our work at the United Nations. Doctors everywhere are engaged in reducing fevers, easing tensions and relaxing pressures. We in the United Nations are also concerned with the reduction of the temperature of every crisis which seems to approach the boiling point. When tension builds up and pressures increase, the United Nations again tries its hand at easing the tensions and relaxing the pressures. The individual doctor has probably more facilities available to him, both for diagnosis and treatment, than we have. And, perhaps, he also has a more co-operative patient, who is willing to carry out his doctor's orders. When prescribing for the world's ills, both physical and mental, unfortunately the United Nations has no miracle drugs to give or injections to administer. And above all our patients are normally very difficult to please. In the circumstances perhaps we should be happy that our efforts are attended with as much success as we have been able to achieve.

And now may I wish you the greatest success in your deliberations, and may I say again how delighted I am that it has been possible for me to take part, even so briefly, in this session of the World Health Assembly.

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Press Release SG/SM/291
2 May 1965

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK

(The following was received from the Information Centre of the United Nations in Geneva.)

The Secretary-General met briefly with the Press at Geneva Airport before his departure for New York this afternoon.

Asked about the main reason for his "recall", he replied:

"Actually, it is not a recall. The Security Council is meeting tomorrow morning on the question of the Dominican Republic and the question of Southern Rhodesia, and since both these questions are very important, I feel that I have to be present when the Security Council meets."

Asked about the situation in the Dominican Republic, the Secretary-General replied:

"According to newspaper reports, the situation seems very serious. I understand many Latin American countries also view the situation with serious concern. I hope the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility to maintain peace and security, will be able to contribute to the solution of the problem there, of course, with due regard to the wishes of the people of that country."

Asked whether the whole problem could be removed from the Security Council and handled by the Organization of American States, the Secretary-General replied:

"I believe the OAS can play a very useful role as is evident from its Constitution. There are precedents, of course. In the case of the Congo, the Organization of African Unity has also been very much involved in seeking a peaceful solution of the Congo problem."

"In the same way, I believe the OAS can play a very useful part. I understand a delegation of OAS is proceeding to the Dominican Republic this morning."

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Asked, "what if the Dominican Republic does not agree to have the problem taken over by OAS", the Secretary-General replied:

"It is very difficult to make an observation on this aspect since I am not clear myself which Government, or which section of the authorities of the Dominican Republic, can legitimately speak for the country."

Asked about the possibilities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat coming to Geneva, the Secretary-General described these as "very great. I have been looking forward to discussing this question with Foreign Minister Wahlen on Tuesday. Unfortunately this is no longer possible, but I believe there are definite possibilities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development coming to Geneva."

Regarding the Viet-Nam situation, the Secretary-General described it as "far from good and going from bad to worse".

He added: "Military methods will not bring about a peaceful solution of the Viet-Nam problems. Only diplomatic and political methods of discussion and negotiation can bring about a lasting peace."

"Of course I will continue my efforts to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution."

Asked whether he was in favour of a Cambodian conference, as proposed by France and the USSR, the Secretary-General replied: "I am."

Asked whether the developments in the Dominican Republic would affect the situation in Viet-Nam, the Secretary-General said that he was "not sufficiently familiar with the background of the events in the Dominican Republic".

Asked his views on United States intervention in the Dominican Republic, the Secretary-General replied:

"I will have to study the question much more closely to be able to give a fair reply."

Asked whether it was possible for the United Nations to send a police force to the Dominican Republic, the Secretary-General replied:

"The question is now before the Security Council which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. I very much hope the Security Council will be able to adopt a resolution which will contribute towards a peaceful solution of this problem."

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Asked how long the Disarmament Commission would be meeting at Headquarters, the Secretary-General replied:

"Perhaps four to five weeks, and I very much hope that the Commission's discussions in New York will lead to the convening of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva."

Asked whether the Cyprus situation was anywhere near solution through United Nations mediation, the Secretary-General replied:

"There are two aspects to the Cyprus question. One is related to the day-to-day peace-keeping operation, the other to the long-term political settlement. Regarding the first aspect, I believe the United Nations has been able to do a very splendid job."

He recalled that when hostilities broke out in Cyprus in December 1963, some of the big Powers "tried very properly to restore law and order without success. Then NATO quite legitimately attempted to restore law and order, again without success."

The Secretary-General continued: "Then the question was brought to the United Nations after six weeks, and the Security Council took a decision, and so far the United Nations has been able to do what some of the big Powers and NATO have not been able to do. As for a long-term political settlement of Cyprus, I am afraid it will take some time. In this context I want to pay tribute to the United Nations Mediator, Calo Plaza, for his very constructive and sensible report."

In reply to another question, the Secretary-General said he did not discuss the question of Malaysia while in Geneva.

Asked for comments on President Bourguiba's suggestion on the Middle East, the Secretary-General replied:

"Regarding the question of the Middle East, I think that as Secretary-General of the United Nations I must confine my observations to various resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. I believe the Secretary-General of a world Organization must act and speak only within the four corners of the resolutions of the principal United Nations organs."

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Press Release SG/SM/290
2 May 1965

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DEPARTURE FROM GENEVA

The following statement was issued by the Secretary-General, U Thant, in Geneva last night:

"Having received a report from United Nations Headquarters in New York of the request for an urgent meeting of the Security Council concerning the situation in the Dominican Republic and in view of the Security Council's decision to hold a meeting on 3 May on the question of Southern Rhodesia, I feel that I must return to United Nations Headquarters, leaving Geneva on Sunday, 2 May.

"I want to express my sincere regrets to the Conseil d'Etat of the Republic and to the canton of Geneva, to the World Veterans Federation, the World Health Organization, representatives of Swiss information media, as well as to the teachers and pupils of the International School, all of whom I was planning to meet during my stay here, but I am convinced that they will understand the reasons compelling me to cut short my visit. I am hopeful however that it will be possible for me to fulfil my long-standing wish to meet those organizations in the near future."

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Note No. 3119/Rev.1
3 May 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Pier P. Spinelli, Director of the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, this morning delivered the address which the Secretary-General, U Thant, had planned to give before the World Veterans Federation in Geneva. (See press release SG/SM/289.)

The trophy presented by the World Veterans Federation was accepted on the Secretary-General's behalf by General K.S. Thimayya, Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

The Secretary-General returned to New York last evening.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

Not for use before 6:30 a.m. EDT
(1030 GMT) Monday, 3 May 1965

Press Release SG/SM/289
1 May 1965

ADDRESS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SPECIAL SESSION
OF WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION IN GENEVA ON 3 MAY

'Soldiers of Peace'

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here today at this special session. First of all, I would like to express to you my deep appreciation of the honour you have just done me in presenting to me the trophy of the World Veterans Federation. I accept it with a deep sense of gratification and as an honour rather to the United Nations than to me personally.

Veterans the world over are genuine friends of peace. The members of your organization know better than anyone the horrors of war and the futility, in our present world, of seeking victory, prosperity or any other positive objective by military means.

As you know, the primary function of the United Nations is to keep the peace. This activity involves not only the so-called peace-keeping operations, of which we hear so much, but a vast complex of day-to-day consultations and activities on all sorts of problems, conflicting interests and disputes. Some of this activity goes on at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, often in my office or between the more than 100 Ambassadors who are permanently accredited to the United Nations. Similar consultations go on all over the world, not only between embassies, but also in the regional organizations and the field missions of the United Nations. Combined with long-term economic and social activities which are aimed at providing a more stable foundation for world peace, the activities which I have mentioned add up to a continuous effort at peace keeping on a far greater and more comprehensive scale than the world has ever had before.

This unprecedentedly great effort is certainly justified by the increased dangers and the enormous complexity of our crowded world. It is when these

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routine activities do not succeed in solving problems and resolving conflicts that we have need of the more publicized peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations, such as we now have in Cyprus, the Middle East and Kashmir, and which we have had in the past in such places as the Congo and West Irian. There is at present a basic and very important international controversy going on about the nature, organization and responsibility for the establishing and financing of these peace-keeping efforts. This is a profoundly difficult question with an incalculable importance for the future, and it is not surprising that its solution poses certain problems. It is to wrestle with these problems that the General Assembly has set up a Special Committee on Peace-Keeping.

These difficulties, grave though they are, have not so far prevented the United Nations from organizing and maintaining peace-keeping operations when a situation is critical enough to warrant it, as, for example, in Cyprus in the past year; and, of course, the previous peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and in Kashmir are being maintained. Quite apart from their importance in preventing the tensions and frictions in a given area from expanding into a far greater and more serious conflagration, these operations have a historic significance. They have been the genesis of a new breed of soldier -- the soldier of peace. They have produced the first generation of military officers and men who have developed the art of war into the even more difficult art of keeping the peace.

You have among you today one of the greatest practitioners of this new art, General Thimayya, the Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to pay tribute to his inspiring leadership and great services to the United Nations and to peace.

The tasks given to these soldiers of the United Nations in the Middle East, in Lebanon, in the Congo, in West Irian, in Kashmir, in Yemen and in Cyprus, to name the main peace-keeping operations which have taken place so far, are very different from and much more complex than the straightforward military tasks of the traditional soldier. Although these are peace forces, service in them is hard and can be dangerous. The soldiers are required to exercise a degree of judgement, restraint and ingenuity far above anything that is likely to be required in normal military service. The possible consequences of mistakes, bad judgement or bad behaviour by United Nations soldiers

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are far graver and more far-reaching than are likely in normal military activity, for in these delicate situations the simplest act or event can have political and other repercussions. United Nations soldiers are required to operate at a completely different level and with a completely different technique from the one that they have been taught in their national military establishments.

In these pioneering ventures, the military personnel of more than 30 countries have already served the United Nations with distinction. It is an immensely encouraging fact that, with a very few exceptions, their performance of their very difficult duties has been outstanding. However slow the political or organizational developments of peace-keeping forces may be, on the human side they have already made a most auspicious start. It has been shown beyond doubt that the new profession of soldiering for peace has immense possibilities for good and for the effective solution of disputes and conflicts between nations and groups. It is also clear that there are plenty of officers and men from countries all over the world who are willing, able and enthusiastic to take up the challenge of keeping the peace.

I understand the World Veterans Federation is considering the establishment of a group to collect information and experience from previous and current peace-keeping operations and that this activity would be guided by an advisory committee of qualified experts.

It is most desirable that organizations outside the United Nations should interest themselves in the problems of peace keeping and in its future development, and certainly no organization is more entitled or better qualified than the World Veterans Federation to take such an interest. There is, I am glad to say, a very widespread interest in the subject throughout the world at the moment, and many organizations are turning their attention to it. In expressing my warm approval of such activities, I would merely add that I hope it will be possible for the organizations concerned to keep each other informed of what they are doing so that their efforts do not duplicate each other or overlap too much. The field is certainly large enough to absorb an almost unlimited amount of co-ordinated effort.

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If we are to surmount the obstacles which now stand in the way of the establishment of a reliable and permanent system of keeping the peace in the world, we are going to need the help of intelligent and well-informed people everywhere. The obstacles which we have to surmount are difficult. There are all kinds of problems involved with concepts of national sovereignty, conflicting national interests, prestige and military power, quite apart from the problems of military and civilian organizations and financing. A solution to these problems will require intelligent public debate and significant changes in national attitudes and prevailing prejudices. Such changes cannot be accomplished by the United Nations or by any Government alone. The active co-operation and help of other organizations and groups of people throughout the world is indispensable. For this reason, particularly, I am delighted to have had the opportunity to meet with you here today. I thank you once again for your attention and for the honour which you have bestowed upon me and upon the United Nations.

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Press Release SG/T/58
30 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL LEAVES VIENNA FOR GENEVA

(The following was received from the Information Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, left Vienna for Geneva today at 0915 hours (GMT).

He was seen off at the airport by Bruno Kreisky, Foreign Minister of Austria, and Sigvard Eklund, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In a brief statement at Vienna airport, U Thant expressed his gratitude to the Government of Austria and the city of Vienna for the hospitality extended to him.

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Press Release SG/T/57
29 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL AND ACC MEMBERS ENTERTAINED BY AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS

(The following is based on information received from the Information Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, and the executive heads of United Nations related agencies, who are attending a session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in Vienna, were entertained at a luncheon given today by the Federal Chancellor of Austria, Josef Klaus.

The guests at the luncheon, held in historic Congress Hall, also included the President of the Austrian Parliament, Alfred Maleta; the Vice-Chancellor, Bruno Pittermann; and the Foreign Minister, Bruno Kreisky.

Mr. Klaus, speaking as acting Head of State, expressed Austria's interest in the United Nations and support of the Charter and praised the Secretary-General's efforts to adjust the work of the Organization to changing requirements.

The Secretary-General, in reply, spoke of the United Nations' supreme preoccupation with the maintenance of peace.

This evening a gala performance was given at the State Opera, followed by a reception in the Palais Pallavicini, with the Foreign Minister as host.

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Press Release SG/T/56
28 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS ON ACTING HEAD OF STATE OF AUSTRIA

(The following is based on information received from the Information Office of IAEA, Vienna.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, today paid a formal call on Joseph Klaus, acting Head of State and Federal Chancellor of Austria. He also held a private conversation during the day with Bruno Kreisky, Foreign Minister of Austria.

The Secretary-General also presided today over the opening meeting in Vienna of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) at which addresses were made by him and by Sigvard Eklund, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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Press Release SG/T/55
27 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN VIENNA

(The following was received from the Information Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, arrived in Vienna at 1140 hours (GMT) today, and was met at the airport by Bruno Kreisky, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, and Sigvard Eklund, Director-General of IAEA.

Following his arrival, the Secretary-General made a short statement expressing his pleasure on arriving in Vienna on the day celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the birth of the Second Austrian Republic.

During his stay in Vienna, the Secretary-General will preside over the annual meeting of the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination), which extends from 28 to 30 April and is to be attended by the heads of all the United Nations specialized agencies.

The Secretary-General is scheduled to leave Vienna for Geneva on 30 April.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/T/54
27 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN LONDON EN ROUTE TO VIENNA

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Centre, London.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, arrived in London at 2340 hours (GMT) on 26 April on his way to Vienna to attend the annual meeting of the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination). He will proceed from London to Vienna at 1030 hours (GMT) on 27 April.

Shortly after his arrival at London airport, the Secretary-General met with representatives of the information media.

Questioned on the prospects of a peaceful solution of the Viet-Nam problem, the Secretary-General said that "to my knowledge, the situation in Viet-Nam has deteriorated in the last week or 10 days", but that he continued to believe that "military methods" would not bring about a peaceful solution, and that "only methods of discussions and negotiations would succeed".

In answer to further questions, the Secretary-General said that he still had no present intention of calling for a cease-fire, but was continuing his efforts in a "very discreet way", and by the use of "contacts, particularly with the parties involved, on a purely personal basis".

Asked to comment on the proposal made during the day in the British House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart for a conference on Cambodia to be called by the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, U Thant said that he was "always a believer in the usefulness of contacts and communications", and that a conference on Cambodia would be "very useful not only for the sake of finding a solution to the Cambodian problem", but also because it would provide "physical contacts between those Governments which have no diplomatic relations".

Asked if an early date was likely for such a conference, he said that he was not aware of the attitudes of all the parties concerned, but, said U Thant, his preference was "the earlier the better".

In answer to a question, the Secretary-General said that he did not feel that the hostilities between India and Pakistan would "escalate", and that he felt that "the Governments of India and Pakistan are very mindful of the consequences of extending hostilities".

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Press Release SG/SM/288
CYP/268
26 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM GREECE TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COSTS OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter of 24 April addressed to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, Alexis S. Liatis, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"With reference to your Note No. FI323/3(18) of 25 March 1965, I have the honour to transmit to you, attached hereto, check No. 303003 of the Bank of Greece, drawn on the First National City Bank, New York, in the amount of \$400,000 representing the contribution of the Royal Greek Government to the expenses of the United Nations Force in Cyprus for the fifth three-month period of its mandate.

"In making this contribution, my Government wishes to reaffirm their confidence in the efforts deployed by the UNFICYP and the United Nations Mediator towards a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem."

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Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/287
CYP/267
26 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM ZAMBIA TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
REGARDING PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 26 April, addressed to the Secretary-General, U Thant, by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations, F.M. Mulikita, regarding the costs of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"With reference to my letter of the 5th April,* I am enclosing a further \$2,000.00 towards Zambia's voluntary contribution to UNFICYP."

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* See press release SG/SM/276-CYP/263 of 6 April 1965.

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(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/T/53
23 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT VIENNA, GENEVA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, will leave New York at 10:00 a.m. Monday, 26 April, for Vienna. After an overnight stop in London, U Thant will proceed to the Austrian capital, where he will preside over the annual meeting of the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) to be attended by all the heads of the United Nations specialized agencies (28-30 April).

On 30 April, the Secretary-General will leave Vienna for Geneva, where he will have talks with members of the Swiss Government. On 3 May, he will address a meeting of the World Veterans Federation at the Palais des Nations. On 4 May, he will deliver a major speech on Europe and the United Nations at a meeting sponsored by the United Nations Association of Geneva.

The Secretary-General will be accompanied by Donald Thomas, Personal Aide.

U Thant plans to return to New York on 5 May 1965.

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Press Release SG/SM/285
TAD/7

22 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO SECRETARY-GENERAL ON OFFER OF UNCTAD HEADQUARTERS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 21 April, from Piero Vinci,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, to the Secretary-General,
U Thant:

"I should like to confirm to you the statement which has been officially
addressed today to the United Nations Trade and Development Board by the Italian
Delegate.

"Since the Italian Government have been informed of some difficulties which
would appear to exist with regard to the establishment of the UNCTAD secretariat
in the Geneva Headquarters of the United Nations, they have given serious
consideration to an alternative plan, and, accordingly, they have authorized the
Italian Delegation to offer adequate facilities in Rome.

"These facilities would be made available in a building where all the
secretariat offices, the Main Committees and the Working Groups may be accommodated,
and meetings could be held at such times and at such length as may be required.
Separate and adequate facilities will be also made available at any time for the
sessions of the UNCTAD Board.

"In submitting this offer, the Italian Government propose to pursue it with
all pertinent details, at your convenience.

"I feel it is my duty to make clear at the same time that in case the
mentioned difficulties of location in the Headquarters at Geneva could be
surmounted, my Government would be favourable to seeing the UNCTAD secretariat
established in Geneva, if that should become the final choice."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
For release on delivery
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Press Release SG/SM/284
DC/331
21 April 1965

TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
BEFORE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION ON 21 APRIL

"The Disarmament Commission is meeting some three months after the end of the annual general debate in the Assembly. During that general debate, it was once again very clear that the problems of disarmament and related issues continue to be among the major preoccupations of mankind.

"Successive sessions of the General Assembly have given careful and detailed consideration to the problems of disarmament, and I have no doubt that the debates and the decisions have made significant contributions towards progress.

"It was unfortunate that the Assembly could not at its nineteenth session take up the disarmament items on its agenda before it recessed. This makes the current meetings of the Disarmament Commission upon which we are embarked even more significant. It is my hope that these meetings will be constructive and will provide the impetus and support to those who bear responsibility for more detailed negotiations.

"Since this Commission met last, there have been important developments. The significant agreements reached in signing the partial test ban treaty, the communication link and the adoption at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly of the resolution to keep nuclear weapons out of outer space have been followed by reciprocal unilateral actions in the spirit of mutual example. Such unilateral measures as the cutback in the production of fissionable material for military purposes and the reduction in military expenditure were small, but significant, steps in the direction of improvement in international relations, as well as of slowing down and ultimately reversing the arms race.

"These developments were not inevitable. They required an affirmation of political will at the highest levels, as well as diplomatic skill. It is my firm belief that no time should be lost in pursuing these problems with new

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21 April 1965

energy and determination. These efforts, I am certain, will also assist the improvement of the general international situation.

"There is evidence that we may be approaching yet another crucial point in the nuclear arms race. On the one hand, the arms race and the development and stockpiling of weapons continue unabated. On the other hand, a growing number of States capable of nuclear weapon development may be faced with difficult decisions involving crucial alternatives. It is generally agreed that we are at a moment when political courage and wise restraint can make possible a decisive turn towards a safer world.

"Without prejudice to the important and continuous obligation to draft an acceptable treaty on general and complete disarmament, negotiations have continued on collateral measures. Several of them seem particularly noteworthy in the light of previous resolutions of the United Nations.

"There is the question of an agreement to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The importance of this problem and the urgency to reach a speedy solution cannot but merit the closest attention.

"Then there is the nuclear test ban issue, and on this subject I should like to reiterate the hope that I expressed on the occasion of the signing of the partial test ban treaty in Moscow in August 1963, that 'every effort will be made to reach agreement on the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time'.

"On another question, there have been conferences in the recent past in Africa and in Latin America, the results of which indicate that the possibility of regional arrangements is receiving serious attention.

"There would seem to be a sound basis for new and constructive decisions on these and other measures which have had the support of the overwhelming majority of Members of the United Nations.

"In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere hope that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee will reconvene in Geneva as early as possible and that your constructive deliberations here will move in the direction of results that are realistic, helpful and positive.

"Thank you."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

Not to be used before 1:30 p.m. EST
(1830 GMT) Wednesday, 21 April

Press Release SG/SM/283

21 April 1965

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ADDRESS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT,
TO AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS CONVENTION AT WALDORF ASTORIA

'Mass Media and Public Opinion'

Two months ago, in speaking to the Convocation on the encyclical Pacem in Terris, I said that the revolution in communications of all kinds has made a well-informed world public opinion technically possible for the first time in history, and that our problem is to ensure a beneficial use of our new-found possibilities of communication. I hope you will not consider it an abuse of your hospitality here today if I take the opportunity to pursue this thought a little further. Certainly, there are few problems more pertinent than this one to the whole field of international relations at the present time. And there can be few, if any, groups of men in the world who are more qualified than yourselves to consider it, or better placed to do something about it.

The influence of the communications media -- newspapers, radio, movies and television -- now permeates the political, economic, social and even personal life of mankind at every level. The more developed the country, the greater is the efficiency, and therefore the influence, of the media. The media -- for what other single word describes the variety of means of communication? -- establish certain aspirations and standards which men will endeavour to attain. They may even condition national opinion, both individually and in the mass, and can create, as any politician knows, an atmosphere which powerfully affects, and sometimes even controls, the reactions of millions of people. In international life, the policies of nations, and their interactions on one another, are continuously affected by the way in which events are reported to the public in various parts of the world. Your responsibilities are, therefore, as great as your potential influence.

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An independent Press is one of the hallmarks of a free society. One of the most useful and constructive functions of the world Press, the assessment and criticism of public policies, would be lost if all newspapers were required to reflect tamely the views of a Government or, more inconceivable still, those of an international organization such as the United Nations. Criticism, especially when it is constructive and well informed, is an invaluable stimulus to leaders, public servants and Governments. Without it, flabbiness and complacency all too easily set in. I am happy, therefore, to be able to report that, at the United Nations, we are the regular recipients of an immense flow of criticism and admonition from all points of the political, ideological and geographical compass. It is a form of stimulus which we should welcome, although, of course, it can, like all good things, be overdone.

I am, nonetheless, concerned with the way in which certain trends of journalism affect people's reactions to the great developments and controversies of our time. Sensationalism is, unfortunately, one of the characteristics of our modern world, and, until mankind grows weary of it, we must take its influence and effect on events into account. There is, naturally, a section of the Press in most countries which lives on sensationalism and is correspondingly lacking in responsibility.

It is a truism that "news" is what sells newspapers, and I do not question the need for an element of drama and excitement in the popular Press. But I know all too well that the adage "no news is good news" is, in some circles, considered to be equally true the other way round -- that "good news is no news", or at least not exciting enough to print. This is an attitude which, if carried too far, can produce a gloomy or sensational picture of events which cannot fail to have important repercussions on the opinions and reactions of peoples and Governments. An undue concentration on violence and conflict inevitably creates a heated atmosphere which is unfavourable to reason and conciliation.

We sometimes see this tendency at work in the reporting throughout the world on the activities of the United Nations. With almost every crisis, for example, the failure, or even the general collapse, of the United Nations is discussed or foreseen. The United Nations is pictured as a protagonist in a

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kind of global sporting event, which must either be won or lost within a given time. This makes for dramatic reading, but not for clear understanding. Such a view ignores the fact that crisis and difficulty are what the United Nations is for and that the game concerned is the endless drama of history itself.

To judge the first 20 years of the world Organization realistically, it is helpful to speculate on what would have happened if it had not existed. Where, for example, would we have been in Kashmir, in the Middle East, in the Congo, in Cyprus, and even in some of the major controversies between the great Powers, if the mechanism and the possibilities for negotiation, mediation and face-saving which the United Nations provides had not been available? And would the transition from colonialism really have been easier or more peaceful without the United Nations? Certainly the United Nations record of the past 20 years includes failures, missed opportunities and gross inadequacies. But there can be little question that, without it, things would have been infinitely, perhaps irretrievably, worse. That is the point from which we must start in trying to strengthen the Organization to face the future.

It is also important to remember that 85 per cent of the activity of the United Nations and its specialized agencies is in long-term activities, in economic, social, legal, human rights and other fields, which get very little attention in the public Press. This long-range, world-wide activity is the firm, if unspectacular, foundation upon which new concepts of human solidarity and co-operation are being developed. It is as vital as any political activity in adjusting the minds and habits of peoples to the degree of co-operation and mutual assistance among nations which is essential to their future well-being and even to their survival.

The United Nations is partly the mirror of an imperfect world, and partly the mechanism which the Governments of that world can use and develop to deal with its imperfections. There is little question in serious people's minds of the necessity for some such mechanism. The problem is how to make it more effective within the limitations of national sovereignty and of conflicting national policies and interests. The United Nations is not in the business of victory or defeat. It is a mechanism through which nations seek peace, progress and justice.

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It is, unfortunately, a fact that the United Nations has not yet found a convincing way of securing a general commitment, not only to its broad aims, but for the practical support of its day-to-day efforts to keep the peace. People therefore tend to ignore the fact that they are part of the Organization and to talk of it as though it had little direct importance for them. It is perhaps due to this failure that many publishers and editors are prepared to write it off fairly casually -- editorially, at any rate -- in times of crisis. It is also true that, at present, the United Nations has no alternative means of its own for reaching the peoples of the world and gaining a general understanding of what it is trying to do, or could do, for them. The United Nations itself is perhaps to blame for this state of affairs, and I myself, as Secretary-General, would welcome any constructive suggestions, especially from so qualified a group as this one, on how this problem can be overcome. To be effective in the way intended by its founders, the United Nations must be accepted in the hearts and minds of the peoples of the world as their Organization and as a useful and necessary part of their lives.

There are certainly no grounds for complacency, or for more than a modest satisfaction, with the experience of the United Nations to date. We are only in the very early stages of establishing a stable world order, and the main task lies ahead. The current controversy over the arrangements of the United Nations for peace keeping shows very clearly how far we still have to go to reach a point where a reliable and effective system of keeping the peace can be established.

The controversy itself involves the relations and interests of the greatest Powers themselves, the relations of the great Powers to the smaller nations and the future security of all nations, especially the smaller ones. It also concerns the evolution of the concept of national sovereignty within the wider framework of a peaceful world order. In these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that an agreed formula is hard to find. But the spirit in which a solution is being sought is encouraging. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson put it well the other day when he said that the United Nations is suffering not from death pangs but from growing pains. It is important that people

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should think about the controversy in this light. There is no room here for defeatism or apathy. This is a public question of the highest importance to all nations. It both deserves and requires the sober understanding of public opinion throughout the world.

One of the effects of the communications revolution has been to speed up the process of action and reaction in human and international relations. Formerly, important events all over the world impinged only slowly on the consciousness of those not directly involved in them. Now the reaction to events, even in the most distant places, is quick -- so quick, in fact, that often the reaction is based on assumptions which later prove to be quite unwarranted by the event itself.

It is natural that situations should be judged by the nations of the world in the light of their national preoccupations at the moment. There is, for example, a tendency, both in the East and the West, to apply cold war considerations to all sorts of situations to which they may be largely inapplicable and irrelevant. This projection of the tensions and frustrations of one situation on to an entirely different one not only falsifies the picture of the events themselves, but even artificially implants, in some cases, a series of new motivations and reactions which can seriously complicate the original situation itself. One of the results of this tendency is a public demand for strong, and often premature, reactions to events -- reactions which set off a similar process of strong reactions on the other side. In such situations, diplomacy and statesmanship may be driven underground, even though temporarily, by inflamed public feeling, and the process of accommodation and understanding, so essential in our dangerous world, suffers irreparable damage. I said, some time ago, that we have eventually to reach a state of political maturity in which it will be considered statesmanlike, rather than weak, for even a great country to alter its course or change its policy in the common interest or in deference to the will of the majority of other nations. The Press of the world can do much to help us to reach that still remote objective.

The speeding-up of the chain of action and reaction in world affairs has, of course, an important impact on the United Nations and on its usefulness to Governments as a mechanism for resolving differences. In fact, often one

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of its most useful functions is to provide a brake on the chain of action and reaction. I might add that this admirable function is usually an unpopular one with the parties concerned in a heated dispute.

Any serious political, economic or social development in the world, whether the United Nations as such is directly involved or not, now inevitably has repercussions on the Organization. Viet-Nam or Cyprus, the European Common Market or a conference of non-aligned States, racial problems or the problem of German reunification, all contribute to the atmosphere and the balance of forces within which the Organization is growing and trying to function. Of all these factors, the East-West relationship is still the dominant one, and the effectiveness of the United Nations is inevitably determined to a large extent by it. Improvements in this relationship open up new possibilities for achievement not only in the field of political conciliation and the peaceful regulation of disputes, but in the economic and social fields as well. When the relationship deteriorates, much of the potential for international co-operation is correspondingly paralysed.

It is an encouraging fact that, after the resolution of the Cuban missiles crisis of October 1962 by mutual consent, the relationship between East and West perceptibly improved. As a result, to my knowledge, 1963 was perhaps the most promising year in the whole history of the United Nations. It was a year that saw not only the partial nuclear test ban Treaty and the agreement to ban all nuclear weapons in outer space, but also the almost unanimous passage of an unprecedented number of important resolutions in the General Assembly. 1964 produced a set-back, mainly due to the controversy over the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations -- a problem which still remains unsolved. It is not to be expected, as I said earlier, that the solution to such a fundamental problem in the development of the world Organization will be easily found.

I believe that the whole trend of international relations in 1965, including the basic problem I have just mentioned, will inevitably be affected by developments in Viet-Nam and by the ability of all the parties to that agonizing situation to find some basis for mutual accommodation, if not for a permanent settlement. I have, on more than one occasion, explained the circumstances

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under which the United Nations has so far not been involved in attempts to solve this problem. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, however, I have repeatedly made clear my own position, and my willingness and desire to help in any way that may be deemed useful. Apart from the risks of escalation and the humanitarian considerations involved, I have also been anxious to assist in a solution to this problem because it affects the whole atmosphere of international relations both within and outside the United Nations, and the balance of innumerable relationships between Governments and peoples. This is not the least of the reasons for making every possible effort to facilitate a peaceful solution. The importance of the part which can be played by the Press of the world in creating an atmosphere in which solutions become possible can hardly be exaggerated, for in the long run there is no substitute for an informed and enlightened public opinion.

In a democratic society, the newspapers and periodicals have tremendous opportunities to mould an informed and enlightened public opinion. The creation of an enlightened approach to world problems, especially to problems of the emerging nations, is within your power. Their problems are really very similar to yours almost 200 years ago when you gained independence. The ideas and ideals, the ringing words and slogans of the American Revolution had a tremendous emotional significance to all those in Asia and Africa who struggled for independence. In all parts of the world where man lives under tyranny, or under covert or overt foreign domination, or in feudal bondage, those who dream and plot and fight for national independence, as you did in the years up to 1776, do so in the name of the eternal principles for which your revolution was fought. In those parts of the world, the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution have been the most explosive of all forces. I would appeal to you -- leaders of thought and moulders of opinion -- to bear these very fundamental facts in mind.

One may well ask: "Why do many countries of Asia and Africa, and for that matter Latin America, veer away from the path of democracy once they attain independence?" My answer is that democracy, as you understand this concept, is a very difficult system to work, because it involves a certain degree of civic consciousness of the electorate, a certain degree of education

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and restraint on the part of the electorate, and above all it involves the harmonizing of many wills. Dictatorship, on the other hand, is an easy system to work, since it involves the subjection of all wills to one. Whatever the defects of democracy, most leaders of Asia and Africa whom I know feel very strongly that the future of their countries lies with some form of democratic government, since they realize that it substitutes reason and persuasion for force in the management of human affairs. They also realize that it is going to be a long, difficult process. When you think for a moment that the full realization of the most cherished democratic principles even in this very enlightened country -- the United States -- is even now an unfinished business, you can well understand and appreciate the tremendous obstacles and impediments in countries with newly won independence.

I very much hope that ~~these observations~~ will help to contribute towards a better understanding of the functions of the United Nations, of the role of the mass media, as I see it, in relation to the activities of the United Nations, and of the need to cultivate an enlightened public opinion regarding certain trends in international developments. Once again, I thank you most sincerely for giving me this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you.

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UNITED NATIONS

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(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/282
20 April 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO DUBLIN
SESSION OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Following is the text of a message sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, on 19 April to the session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union being held at Dublin, Ireland, from 19 to 25 April 1965:

"It is once again a great pleasure to convey my greetings to the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the occasion of its meeting in Dublin.

"The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an organization with which the United Nations has had close and fruitful relations for many years. The work of your Union has contributed in a real way to a better understanding and to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

"The success of the work of the United Nations must ultimately depend not merely on the support of the governments of the world, but also in very great measure on the active interest of the peoples of the world. As representatives of the peoples of your countries in your national Parliaments, you are in a particularly favourable position to sustain and nourish public support for the activities and aims of the United Nations.

"Your deliberations deal with a number of problems relating to international peace and security which are of direct concern to the United Nations. In the fields of strengthening international peace and of disarmament, in your support of the independence of peoples, of international law and of the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the people of the world as well as of their human rights, you are helping to achieve our common objectives. I am confident that your deliberations will help not only in grappling with the important problems on your agenda, but will also make a valuable contribution to the cause of international peace and security.

"I extend my best wishes for the success of your work."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE

Not for use before 5 a.m. EST
(1000 hours GMT) Wednesday, 21 April

Press Release SG/SM/281*
ECE/120
20 April 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TWENTIETH SESSION
OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE MEETING IN GENEVA

Following is the text of the message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which is being held in Geneva from 21 April to 7 May:

"Your session takes place at a time when increasing co-operation and understanding among the ECE Governments is particularly important to sustain and reinforce the aims and the activities of the Organization as a whole.

"Many of the grave issues facing the United Nations as a world Organization are issues whose solution depends very largely on the mutual understanding and co-operation of several of the Governments represented at this session. In this connexion I think I should, once again, recall that this is International Co-operation Year, the midway point of the United Nations Development Decade.

"The co-operation to which this Year is dedicated and the development for which this Decade has been named are primarily intended to secure the economic and social advancement of the countries and peoples who find themselves in the vicious grasp of economic backwardness, stagnation and poverty. The chances of achieving the goals set for the Decade depend on many efforts. Co-operation and harmony among ECE Governments are vital to the success of these endeavours.

"As you well know, the friction and conflict which have beset your region have not only reduced the effectiveness of your Commission as a United Nations body, but their repercussions have made themselves felt throughout the world.

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* Being released simultaneously in Geneva.

For the United Nations the never-ending search for the solution of such differences is a permanent challenge. Surely when the world is becoming increasingly aware of the devastating threat posed by the division between the prosperous and the poor, the affluent and the famished, a joint effort by your Governments to raise the standards of those so much in need of development and material betterment may well help to compose your differences by a joint dedication.

"In this connexion, we shall never be aware enough, I think, of the fact that small reductions in armaments expenditure would free significant resources for aiding the under-developed countries, even if only a portion of these savings is channelled to them.

"Concerted, purposeful and co-operative action by the developed countries, so many of whom are represented at your session, is an essential complement to the staggering efforts the developing countries themselves must make. I should like to mention two specific areas of priority attention where ECE's contribution has been made, and will continue to be needed, namely, industrial development and trade. Great reliance is being placed on the contribution ECE will be able to make to the substantive preparations for the series of regional symposia that are going to be held later this year and early next year, as well as for the international symposium on industrialization which they will lead up to.

"In the field of trade, the experience your secretariat has acquired in coping with the intricate and sometimes seemingly intractable difficulties of facilitating and removing obstacles to increased international trade, particularly between countries with different economic and social systems, will be put to even greater use now that new machinery has been established in the United Nations in the form of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"More generally, I believe that progress in developing countries depends to a great extent on the understanding of the countries of this continent and on their willingness to transfer and adapt the knowledge and experience they have accumulated over the centuries with respect to science and technology, those powerful engines of the development process.

"In expressing the hope that you will make progress at this session in meeting the needs of the ECE region, I also wish to express my confidence that you will at the same time succeed in helping the urgent and desperate needs of those other parts of the world which are less fortunate than those represented here."

UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations, N.Y.

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Note No. 3104
15 April 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE LUNCHEON
GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
ON THURSDAY, 15 APRIL 1965

Mr. STAJUDHAR (President, United Nations Correspondents Association):

Mr. Secretary-General, we, the correspondents accredited to the United Nations, are greatly honoured to have you among us today. This traditional luncheon which our Association has arranged in your honour is a symbol of the recognition we wish to express to you.

I would like to greet you most cordially, in the name of the Press corps which is a daily witness to your great efforts and activities in the interest of the United Nations, world peace and international co-operation.

I would at the same time, on behalf of all the correspondents, like to greet your associates, Under-Secretary Narasimhan, Under-Secretary Rolz-Bennett, and Under-Secretary Tavares de Sa, who are present here today.

Sir, what changes there are since our luncheon last year. International problems have reached new dimensions, and some have grown into world crises. The United Nations has also been hit. The centre of the situation, however, is the Viet-Nam crisis or the Viet-Nam war.

It is fortunate that at this time you have been at the helm of the United Nations. You have shown a high degree of responsibility, courage, honesty and far-sightedness. You have been tireless in your appeals for understanding and a peaceful solution of international disputes. Your efforts in the United Nations crisis and on the Viet-Nam issue are only a part of the long and laborious activities of the 1200 days you have borne this responsibility.

Your speech at the international convocation Pacem in Terris underlined the importance of public opinion and the role of the Press. The fact remains that public opinion and Governments throughout the world value your views and wish to hear your evaluations and suggestions.

We would like to see and hear more of you. The Press is an instrument by which you communicate with the world Governments and with the world public opinion.

Mr. Secretary-General, you have our complete attention.

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The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. President and **friends:** it is needless for me to say that I am most appreciative of your kindness in organizing this luncheon and enabling me to meet with you once again at this traditional lunch, which I hope will be an annual institution. And I am grateful to you in particular, Mr. President, for your very kind words about me. I also want to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all of you in UNCA for your understanding and co-operation with me in particular and the United Nations Secretariat in general, for trying to project the UN activities to the outside world with objectivity and understanding. I also very much appreciate your patience and tolerance in your dealings with all of us in the Secretariat.

As you know, of the UN has not been able to provide sensational news, which most of you want, and, understandably, of course, you must have been disappointed. But it is useful to bear in mind the truth of the saying that no news is good news. Of course we have from time to time news regarding resolutions and decisions of the committees in session. And some of my public statements on current issues of course are treated with due prominence in the Press, both local and international. You have rightly pointed out, Mr. President, that the whole world is focusing its attention on the developments in South-East Asia, and I think it would be appropriate for me to make a few brief introductory remarks on the situation in Viet-Nam.

My deep concern about the situation in Viet-Nam and the imperative need to find a peaceful settlement of that situation continues, of course. My efforts towards this end also continue, although in the nature of the case most such efforts, by whomever exerted, must be behind the scenes and in the realm of quiet diplomacy. You will understand, therefore, my inability today to say very much about Viet-Nam.

Although the threat to the peace of the world is no less grave today, I may say that I find some recent developments to be heartening. As you know, I have welcomed and endorsed the appeal of 1 April of the seventeen Heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries for the start of negotiations on the Viet-Nam situation without any pre-conditions. I consider this to be a sound approach because I believe that the only way to get discussions started which would lead to serious negotiation would be without any conditions.

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I would very much hope that this appeal will be responded to soon by all of the parties directly concerned. I also trust that the seventeen nations will continue their efforts to achieve a peaceful solution of the problem of Viet-Nam. I feel that the door to discussion and negotiation has at least been partially opened by President Johnson's statement of 7 April endorsing "unconditional discussions", and by the indication reported in the Press that Premier Pham Van Dong of North Viet-Nam would be willing to undertake discussions, although under certain stated conditions. I strongly hope that there will be a prompt follow-up on the stated willingness of the parties directly involved to enter into discussions and that no effort will be spared to get discussions started with a minimum of delay. The world, which is gravely threatened by this conflict, is certainly due this much.

Now, Mr. President, I shall be glad to answer questions that may be posed.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, in the Cyprus and other international conflicts since the UN was founded the effort has been first to get a cease-fire. Why do you not appeal for a cease-fire in Viet-Nam?

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General. after the statement of the President of the United States on a solution of the Viet-Nam conflict, you expressed your deep satisfaction. I think that it would be of utmost interest to all of us, and to the world, to have your reaction to the recent statement of the North Vietnamese Government.

QUESTION: Do you intend to make any contact, direct or indirect, with the Peking and Hanoi authorities with a view to obtaining clarification of their recent statements on the possibility of negotiations on Viet-Nam? In your opinion, would any new initiative by the group of seventeen non-aligned countries in approaching Hanoi and Peking be useful at this present period of the crisis?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Regarding the need for a proposal from somewhere for a cease-fire or a temporary cessation of military activities, I think the important point to take into account is the prospective reaction to such an appeal from the parties directly concerned.

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I have been thinking along these lines for some time, as some of you are no doubt aware. But in the absence of any definite indication from some of the parties directly concerned regarding the compliance with such an appeal, I feel that it is not time yet to launch such an appeal. In my view, such an appeal for a cease-fire eliciting a negative response from some of the parties primarily concerned will not only defeat the purpose of the appeal, but it is likely to compromise the future effectiveness of the one who makes such an appeal. I believe that timing is a most important factor in the consideration of such a step.

Regarding the two further questions, I believe I have dealt with them, though briefly, in my introductory remarks. I welcome President Johnson's speech of 7 April, for certain features of the President's speech, in my view, are positive, outward-looking and generous, as I stated through a UN spokesman on the next morning. I feel that President Johnson has opened the door for further steps to be taken. I also feel that Premier Pham Van Dong's statement of 13 April also opened the door to some extent for future steps to be taken.

As I see the situation and attitudes, there appears to be a general consensus, at least between Hanoi and Washington, on the need to return to the essentials of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. You will no doubt recall that President Johnson, in one of his recent speeches -- if I remember correctly, on 25 March -- stated the willingness of his Government to return to the essentials of the 1954 Agreements. And Premier Pham Van Dong, in his statement of the day before yesterday, also reiterated his Government's long-standing position that the North Vietnamese Government would be in favour of returning to the essentials of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. I think this is the clue to the settlement of the Vietnamese problem.

While on this subject, I want to make one further observation. In dealing with the problem of Viet-Nam, I think the most important consideration should be to be clear about our objectives. What should be our objectives regarding an enduring solution of the Vietnamese problem? As I see the situation, there are two or three possible end results of the Vietnamese situation, but the most desirable and, I think, the most sensible objective for all of us to have is to return to the essentials of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, which President Johnson last stated in his speech of 25 March, and which the Prime Minister of North Viet-Nam reiterated the day before yesterday.

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QUESTION: Would you go to Peking and Hanoi to explore the chances of a peaceful settlement in Viet-Nam? Have you asked to go?

QUESTION: Have you contemplated a trip to Hanoi and/or Peking, and, if so, could you give us your present thoughts on such a trip?

QUESTION: Do you have plans, either concrete or in the planning stage, to visit Asia, including countries involved in the Viet-Nam situation?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have no plans to visit either Peking or Hanoi. But in the last couple of months, many well-meaning friends have advised me -- privately of course -- that it might be helpful if I could think of visiting Peking and Hanoi in order to explore the possibilities of achieving a peaceful solution of the Vietnamese problem. I have never discussed this possibility with anyone. I have never indicated my intention to visit either Peking or Hanoi to anyone, but many well-meaning friends, including of course delegates, maintained that it could be useful if I could explore the viewpoints of Peking and Hanoi on certain next steps to be taken towards the achievement of the objectives in Viet-Nam.

Of course, as you all know, I requested President Ben Bella of Algeria, early in March, through Ambassador Bouattoura, to sound out the views of Peking regarding the next steps Peking feels should be taken towards the achievement of a peaceful solution of the Vietnamese problem. As you all no doubt know, Ambassador Bouattoura went over to Algiers and President Ben Bella of Algeria had long and useful meetings with Premier Chou En-lai of the People's Republic of China. And Premier Chou En-lai's views -- at least some of the important points transmitted to me through Ambassador Bouattoura -- have been covered by the Press, both local and international, and I do not think I should elaborate on these views.

As I have stated all along, the attitude of Peking towards the United Nations is well known. The People's Republic of China is not here. The United Nations has not been involved in the Geneva Conferences of 1954, nor in the Geneva Conference of 1962 regarding Laos, and Peking felt and still feels that the United Nations should not and cannot be involved in the problem of Viet-Nam. In the view of Peking, there is already in existence an international machinery to deal with that matter. We may or may not agree with that, but that is the viewpoint of Peking. I am fully aware of this viewpoint. But now, in the face of Peking's reaction to my soundings

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in Algeria, I do not see any point in discussing the possibility of my visit to Peking. And of course I have no plans to visit Asia in the near future too.

QUESTION: Do you now have any initiative under way in connexion with the war in Viet-Nam?

QUESTION: Have you had any information about the willingness of North Viet-Nam and China to participate in negotiations to end the war in Viet-Nam?

QUESTION: Could we ask for your evaluation of the "new stage" of the Viet-Nam crisis? And can we take this last development as a "new stage" at all? And second, could you evaluate specifically the last Hanoi proposal of four points?

QUESTION: In view of the recent reaction of Hanoi in stating its position in regard to possible negotiations, do you see a particular role that you might be able to play to encourage further development leading towards formal negotiations on Viet-Nam and possibly on the whole Indo-China peninsula?

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The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think that I dealt with most of those questions in my previous remarks. But I do want to say this: I shall continue my efforts to find a peaceful solution of the Vietnamese problem, as I have been doing all along. I feel that my usefulness has not ended. If ever I believe that my usefulness has ended, I shall not hesitate to request the Security Council to recommend to the General Assembly a new man to take my place.*

QUESTION: Do you consider that the publication of your reactions to President Johnson's statement on Viet-Nam immediately after it was made was the cause of the Chinese and North Vietnamese position against your visit to those countries? I ask that question because for the first time Peking criticized you by name.

QUESTION: You were accused in an authoritative Asian newspaper the other day of setting out to serve United States imperialism in its designs for negotiations for peace. What is your comment on that accusation?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think that it is worth reminding ourselves that one of the primary functions of the Secretary-General -- who is really the Number one servant of this Organization -- is to see that the United Nations serves as a centre to harmonize the actions of States, with a view to the achievement of common ends. That is clearly provided for in the Charter. I therefore feel very strongly that one of my primary functions is to harmonize the viewpoints of 114 Member States. Of course, that is a very difficult task. I have never deluded myself into thinking that all my statements and all my actions will be endorsed by all the 114 Members. It is far from my belief that all 114 Members will endorse every word I say or every action I take. However, as I have said before, so long as I am performing the functions of Secretary-General it shall be my constant endeavour to harmonize the thinking and action of all Member States towards the achievement of the common ends, as explicitly laid down in the United Nations Charter.

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* Immediately following the press conference, the following oral statement was made by a United Nations spokesman: "The Secretary-General's reference to his usefulness pertained to the performance of his over-all functions as Secretary-General."

QUESTION: You said in your introduction to the annual report that:
"countries not at present represented in New York should be enabled to
maintain contact with the world body ...". (A/5801/Add.1, page 11)

In the light of North Viet-Nam's indispensability with regard to aid for South-East Asia, would you now wish to comment?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I do not see any early prospect of getting the North Vietnamese Government involved in United Nations activities one way or the other. What I suggested in my Introduction to the Annual Report was to focus world attention on the need for exposure and contact with regard to those outside the sphere of the United Nations. My attitude towards all such problems is this: If we have more opportunities for exposure, contact and communication, that will be a very desirable first step towards the more important second step of involving all nations of the world in United Nations activities.

As you are no doubt aware, I believe in the universality of the United Nations, which is, of course, implied in the Charter. Before that principle of universality can be applied, I believe in the concept of greater contact and greater communication with all States, the concept of greater exposure, whether in the United Nations or outside the United Nations.

QUESTION: Can the United Nations go ahead with plans for expanded economic development in the Mekong basin while the Viet-Nam war is in its present "hot" phase? If so, to what extent?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: With regard to President Johnson's stated intention to enlarge the economic development of the South-East Asian region, I had preliminary consultations with Mr. Eugene Black. Those consultations were very useful. Mr. Black and I agree that there are so many factors involved -- some of them very delicate -- that we should hasten slowly.

Of course, there is already in existence international machinery in the area -- the Mekong Co-ordination Committee, which was set up by ECAFE and has been in operation for the past eight years, with meagre means at its disposal.

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I think that one of the practical steps to be taken -- provided, of course, that the countries concerned agree to the project -- is to involve the Mekong Co-ordination Committee, which is already in existence, to expand its activities in the economic and social fields.

Of course, there are also projected programmes in the area such as the Asian Development Bank, which is coming into being very soon. Perhaps President Johnson's ideas can be usefully utilized within the framework of the projected Asian Development Bank also.

Those steps will take time. I believe -- and Mr. Black agrees with me -- that we have to be very careful in formulating our plans and arrangements to give effect to the ideas presented by President Johnson on 7 April.

QUESTION: In 1949 President Truman's inaugural speech, with its implied support of United Nations technical assistance, electrified the Secretariat at Lake Success. What kind of reaction has there been in this house to President Johnson's proposal to substitute economic development for war in South-East Asia?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: To my knowledge, President Johnson's reference to the need for an expanded programme of economic assistance in that area has been widely welcomed.

I believe that, if the conditions are conducive to the implementation of those ideas, it will mean a very great deal to the people of the area. As you know, most of the countries in the area are very much under-developed, and the development of the economic and social conditions of the peoples in that particular area will be a boon to them; indirectly, of course, it will contribute to the creation of peaceful conditions also.

QUESTION: Do you think that the proposal by Cambodia, endorsed by the Soviet Union, for a Cambodian conference could be of use, particularly in order to have behind-the-scenes talks on Viet-Nam?

QUESTION: Would you consider a Cambodian neutrality conference an acceptable vehicle for starting exploratory talks on Viet-Nam? Do you think that the major parties in Viet-Nam might agree?

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QUESTION: Did you discuss with Mr. Harold Wilson the question of reconvening the Geneva Conference on Cambodia? Are you in favour of such a conference, and do you believe it could lead to negotiations on Viet-Nam?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Government of Cambodia proposed -- I believe in early March -- the convening of the International Conference on the Neutrality of Cambodia. That proposal was endorsed by Peking and France; the other day the Government of the Soviet Union endorsed it. I have been informed that this will be among the items to be discussed today by President Johnson and Prime Minister Wilson in Washington. Of course, I have no means of knowing what Washington and London will decide on this. However, I believe that if the international conference takes place it will serve as a useful forum for the discussion of other matters not directly related to the question of Cambodia.

QUESTION: How would you assess the role played by Prime Minister Pearson in the effort to work out a peaceful solution to the Vietnamese crisis?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have high esteem for Prime Minister Lester Pearson, for his great qualities of head as well as heart -- and particularly for his dedication to the principles of the United Nations Charter and his whole-hearted co-operation with United Nations activities. I feel that his proposals from time to time and proposals he may make in the future on Viet-Nam are worthy of very sympathetic consideration.

QUESTION: What do you foresee with regard to the Cyprus problem?

QUESTION: In view of the Turkish reaction to the Galo Plaza report, is Mr. Galo Plaza's position as Mediator compromised? Can he be effective?

QUESTION: What is the status of the Cyprus mediation effort? Do you contemplate the return of Mr. Galo Plaza or the appointment of another Mediator?

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The SECRETARY-GENERAL: First, let me say that Mr. Galo Plaza's report is an example of cool judgement, objective assessment and realistic approach. I have already thanked him personally for the excellence of his report, as regards both substance and presentation.

I have made my position clear in my reply to the Government of Turkey -- that statement has been distributed as a Security Council document, along with others. The mediation efforts of the United Nations will continue, and, as far as I am concerned, Mr. Galo Plaza will continue to function as Mediator. Of course, I have made that known to all the parties primarily concerned.

With regard to the future of Cyprus, it is difficult to predict. But I think that it is worth while to recall the past. As you no doubt recall, hostilities flared up in Cyprus in December 1963. Some of the big Powers -- quite properly -- tried to restore law and order on the island, but without success. Then NATO attempted -- I must say quite legitimately -- to restore law and order in Cyprus, but again without success. Then, after six weeks, the matter was brought to the United Nations. The Security Council had to take certain actions with a view to restoring peace on that unfortunate island. In my view, the United Nations has been able to do ~~what~~ what others have failed to do so far, although a political settlement is, of course, still far away. I think that it is right for the United Nations to continue to take an interest in finding an enduring solution for Cyprus.

QUESTION: How do you evaluate the present situation in the Middle East, and do you foresee a possible war danger there over the diversion of the Jordan River waters?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The situation in the Middle East has, of course, changed in recent weeks and months. We are witnessing in that part of the world what we have been witnessing in other parts: there are shifting alignments and shifting patterns. I think that it is a little too early to assess whether those shifting alignments and patterns are for the better or for the worse. But we have to be very vigilant in that area, and the United Nations has to do its

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utmost to create conditions conducive to the peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes.

Apart from that, I do not think that it would be in the public interest for me to reveal my personal views on the problem.

QUESTION: The best efforts of the United Nations have failed to bring about any profound change in South Africa's apartheid policy. What more can or should the United Nations do, and is the application of sanctions a serious possibility?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: This question is before two bodies of the United Nations: the Committee on Apartheid and the Security Council. As you know, the Committee on Apartheid has been looking into this matter very closely for some time, and I believe that the Security Council has to take up the question sooner or later. Before the Security Council takes a decision, I do not think that I should make any observations.

QUESTION: Can you estimate the effect on the Development Decade and the North-South problem of proposals recently made for a greatly expanded economic programme for South-East Asia?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: If the projected economic programme for South-East Asia is launched after due consideration of all factors involved, I am sure that it will contribute significantly to the success of the Development Decade.

QUESTION: What progress has been made by the Committee of Thirty-Three in solving the United Nations financial crisis?

QUESTION: Do you think that the financial situation of the United Nations is a handicap for you in working for a political solution in Viet-Nam?

QUESTION: In view of the present discussions, can you be optimistic about the possibility of the General Assembly's resuming normal business in September?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: As regards the functioning of the Committee of Thirty-Three, the President of the General Assembly and I have been in private consultations with the members, both individually and collectively. The President of the Assembly and I have come to the conclusion that there are certain areas of agreement regarding the principles of future peace keeping. On that basis, we prepared a paper outlining our understanding of the common denominator of the members of the Committee of Thirty-Three, particularly the big Powers. That paper has been made available to all the members of the Committee of Thirty-Three for their consideration. Of course, we made it very clear to them that this is not our proposal, or our suggestions, but only a resume of our understanding of the common denominator of most of the members of the Committee of Thirty-Three, to serve as guidance for future discussions on the principles of peace keeping. So far we have received certain unofficial reactions from certain members. Obviously, this paper has to be revised and modified. I think that it has to go through a series of revisions and modifications before it can be taken up officially at any meeting of the Committee of Thirty-Three.

Tentatively, as you know, the next meeting of the Committee of Thirty-Three is fixed for 22 April. But perhaps the members might feel inclined to discuss the implications of the paper informally.

Regarding the second question, the financial situation of the United Nations continues to be very unsatisfactory. Naturally, these stringent financial circumstances have a relevancy to any activities connected with peace keeping.

Mr. STAUDER: On behalf of all the members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, I should like to express our thanks to you, Mr. Secretary-General. It has been a privilege and honour to have you with us today and to hear you.

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Press Release SG/SM/280
14 April 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO PRESIDENT
OF UNITED STATES ON TORNADO

Following is the text of a message sent today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson:

"We are all deeply distressed to hear of heavy toll on life and property owing to recent tornado in Mid-West. We wish to convey to you, and through you to the people of the stricken area, our profound sorrow and sympathy."

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Press Release SG/SM/279
CYP/266
12 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM MALAWI TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COSTS OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of letter, dated 7 April, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations, M.P. Chisala:

"Please refer to your appeal FI 252/3(18) of the 21st December, 1964, for voluntary contributions towards the costs of the Peace-Keeping Force (UNFICYP) in Cyprus.

"I am happy to inform you that I have now received communication from my Government and have been directed to advise you that Malawi is prepared to make a voluntary contribution of £2,000 sterling. I have further been requested to inform you that a letter from my Government will follow in due course."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

Not for use before

6:30 p.m. (EST) Sunday, 11 April

Press Release SG/SM/278

9 April 1965

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PUGWASH CONFERENCE

Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, transmitted to the fourteenth Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs being held in Venice, Italy, from 11 to 16 April 1965:

"It is a great pleasure to convey my greetings to the fourteenth Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs.

"The Pugwash Conferences have, for a number of years, made a significant and positive contribution to the efforts of national Governments and of the international community to find solutions to the difficult and vitally important problems facing mankind as a result of the striking developments in science and technology and in their military applications.

"Your discussions deal with a number of the problems of international peace and security which are of direct concern to the United Nations, in particular in the fields of disarmament, collective security and international collaboration among nations. The continuing dialogues which you have instituted on the great issues of war and peace among scientists from countries having different political and social systems have helped to delineate the dimensions of these problems, and to create a better understanding of how to deal with them more effectively. In taking up the subject of 'International Co-operation for Science and Disarmament' at your fourteenth session, I feel confident that you will again make a valuable contribution in helping to promote the cause of international peace and security.

"I extend my best wishes for the success of your work."

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Press Release SG/SM/277
REF/487

8 April 1965

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL AT CEREMONY LAUNCHING
UNITED NATIONS RECORD 'INTERNATIONAL PIANO FESTIVAL'

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at the ceremony held today to launch the United Nations record "International Piano Festival":*

"I am very glad, Mr. Urrutia,** to be present here today at the launching of this enterprise, in which I wish you the greatest possible success.

"The work of the High Commissioner's Office is a humanitarian task of the greatest value. It is also an important part of the programme of the United Nations family of organizations. At this time when the United Nations is observing International Co-operation Year, it is appropriate to underline the importance of the basis of the High Commissioner's work, which is co-operation between Governments, with other inter-governmental organizations and with voluntary agencies, and through them with the public at large.

"The purpose of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to alleviate the suffering of human beings in all parts of the world who are the innocent victims of the changes and disturbances of our time, and to help them build a new future. To these men, women and children who are being helped to overcome the tragic consequences of being uprooted, the United Nations and the idea of international co-operation will always have a particular meaning.

"The universal recognition and support of the work of the High Commissioner for Refugees is a manifestation of the general support throughout the world for an active United Nations. In the social and economic field no less than in the political field, we are moving increasingly from the conference room into the world, in the active pursuit of economic advancement and social progress. In this advance the unfortunate people who have been uprooted by historic

(more)

8 April 1965

changes and upheavals have a special claim on our attention and our help. The work of the High Commissioner is the answer to that claim. The record issued by the High Commissioner serves to bring home to many people throughout the world this aspect of international responsibility.

"I should like to join you in expressing gratitude to the artists, and others who have made this record possible. I have always been very much touched by the co-operation and generosity which artists in all fields have shown by their willingness to contribute to international co-operation and especially to humanitarian programmes.

"May the response of the public match the generosity of those who made the creation of 'International Piano Festival' possible by giving us their time and effort as their personal contribution to the cause of the world's refugees."

* *** *

* The ceremony was held at 3 p.m. today in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium at United Nations Headquarters to launch the record featuring six of the world's greatest pianists in a programme from Mozart to Liszt. The record will be marketed by a United States record company with all net proceeds to benefit the United Nations programmes for refugees. The record was produced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in co-operation with the record industry and trade. The first album of this recording was presented to the Secretary-General at today's ceremony.

** Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Francisco Urrutia.

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Press Release SG/1648
ICEF/919

SECRETARY-GENERAL OPENS UNITED NATIONS ART CLUB EXHIBITION

The Fifteenth Annual United Nations Art Club Exhibition, being held for the benefit of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and entitled "Art Around the World", was opened today at United Nations Headquarters by the Secretary-General, U Thant.

Opening the Exhibition, the Secretary-General said that it was the purpose of the United Nations to promote peaceful co-operation among all the countries of the world. The creative aspirations of men could be fulfilled only in times of peace, he added.

U Thant expressed his appreciation to the members of the United Nations Art Club and guest contributors for their participation in the Exhibition.

A total of 145 paintings and sculptures are being displayed in the Exhibition -- 75 of which were donated to the Club by its members and guests.

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Press Release SG/SM/276
CYP/263

6 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM ZAMBIA TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COSTS OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter from the Foreign Minister of Zambia, dated 12 March, addressed to the Secretary-General, U Thant, and forwarded to him on 5 April by F.M. Mulikita, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations:

"I have the honour to thank you for your letter II 323/3 (18) of 21 December 1964, appealing for voluntary contributions to provide the necessary financial support to the United Nations operation in Cyprus.

"I have the honour to enclose a cheque for \$2,000 as Zambia's voluntary contribution for the three-month period starting from 26th December 1964. The Government of the Republic of Zambia will make a similar contribution for each subsequent three-month period for which the operation is properly authorised.

"According to a calculation on the basis of Zambia's share of the Regular Budget (which we presume will be 0.04%), we should pay approximately \$2,500 towards the operation. However, we feel that the countries most closely concerned should be expected to shoulder a large proportion of the cost and we have therefore limited our contribution.

"Nevertheless, we are anxious to do all we can to assist with measures to relieve the Organization's present financial crisis. Our Permanent Representative has already informed you of Zambia's promise to make as generous a voluntary contribution to the Organization as its limited resources allow. I have no doubt that at the most appropriate time you will call on us to give practical effect to this promise.

"I wish also to assure you, Sir, that Zambia will make prompt payment on receiving formal notification of any of its financial obligations to the United Nations."

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/275
CYP/262

5 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM SWEDEN TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
REGARDING PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter of 2 April received today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the acting Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Sven F. Hedin, regarding the costs of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus:

"I have the honour to refer to your letter FI/323/3 (18) of March 25, 1965, in which you draw attention to the Security Council Resolution 201 (1965) of March 19, 1965, on the question of Cyprus, and in which you appealed to my Government to make a voluntary contribution to meet the costs for a fifth period of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus.

"I have now been instructed to inform you that the Government of Sweden has decided to make a contribution of 120,000 dollars (United States) to meet costs for the fifth three months period. My Government has taken this decision without prejudice to its stand on the principle of collective financial responsibility for United Nations operations of this nature."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/SM/274
T/D/B/2
5 April 1965

OPENING STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT AT FIRST SESSION
OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 5 APRIL 1965

A year ago the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was already in full swing. It was the largest gathering of independent nations and one of the most notable ventures of the United Nations in the economic field. The Conference reflected the conviction that existing policies were inadequate to achieve a satisfactory rate of economic growth and that a change was due. Public opinion sensed correctly the importance of the issues before U.N.C.T.A.D. The days that were to determine the success or failure of the Conference were approaching.

We now know its outcome; the results of the Conference as embodied in its Final Act are viewed throughout the world as a major international achievement. The General Assembly, in days of grave political crisis, saw fit to give its approval to the establishment of the new institutional framework for trade and development and to provide it with an appropriate financial basis.

On this day when you are gathered here for the first session of the Trade and Development Board, it may not be out of place to recall these significant events of last year. At the opening of the Geneva Conference I expressed the hope that the Conference would "mark a turning-point in the work of the United Nations in the economic field". Indeed, the Conference laid down basic principles and policies which will constitute the guidelines for your future work. We all realize that this session of the Board is only the beginning of a process of adjustment through negotiation and mutual accommodation. For this task the Conference and its Board are endowed with an instrument that is new in the United Nations system -- a mechanism of special conciliation procedures before voting which will no doubt give a new dimension to international co-operation within the United Nations.

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The establishment of UNCTAD shows clearly that the United Nations recognizes the need to make further progress in integrating international trade and financing, the two fundamental vehicles of development. The Conference on Trade and Development is thus a positive expression of the concept whereby the task of maintaining the peace is no longer viewed solely in terms of political events but is indivisibly linked to the achievements of better standards of living in all parts of our shrinking globe. Governments and peoples expect this new machinery to make definite progress in achieving these aims. I am confident that you will seize every opportunity to move forward and that you will labour most constructively to bring to reality our hopes and aspirations.

In this spirit, and conscious of the significance of your task, I wish you all success in your deliberations.

I declare open the first session of the United Nations Trade and Development Board.

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Press Release SG/SM/273

CYP/261

1 April 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM VENEZUELA TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COSTS OF UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 31 March 1965, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Charge d'Affaires, a.i., of the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations, Pedro Zuloaga:

"Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia para comunicarle que el Gobierno de Venezuela ha decidido aportar una nueva contribución de mil dolares (\$US 1.000,00) para el sostenimiento de la Fuerza de las Naciones Unidas para el mantenimiento de la paz en Chipre."

Unofficial English Translation

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Venezuela has decided to make a new contribution of \$US 1,000 towards the costs of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/SM/272
29 March 1965

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE

Following is the text of a message sent today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Gabriel Valdes:

"Con profunda pena me he enterado del violento terremoto ocurrido en Chile el día de ayer con la trágica secuela de pérdida de vidas y cuantiosos daños materiales. Me permito hacer llegar a Vuestra Excelencia y por su intermedio al Gobierno y pueblo de Chile, y en particular a los familiares de las víctimas, los sentimientos de hondo pesar que a todos nos embargan en las Naciones Unidas en esta hora de luto para Chile. He pedido al Representante Residente de la Junta de Asistencia Técnica en Santiago, Adriano García, que consulte a los departamentos interesados del Gobierno chileno a efecto de determinar si se requiere alguna asistencia que las Naciones Unidas y los organismos especializados estén en condiciones de suministrar. Más alta consideración."

Unofficial English Translation

"I am deeply saddened to hear of the many victims, as well as the material damage, caused by the severe earthquake in Chile yesterday. I wish to convey to you, and through you to the Government and people of Chile, and particularly to the relatives of the victims, the deep sorrow that we, at the United Nations, feel in this hour of mourning in Chile. I have requested the Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board in Santiago, Adriano Garcia, to consult with the appropriate organs of the Chilean Government to ascertain whether any assistance could be furnished by the United Nations and its specialized agencies."

* *** *

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Press Release SG/A/23
M/1621

25 March 1964

GABRIEL-MARIE D'ARBOUSSIER OF SENEGAL APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

The Secretary-General, U Thant, today announced the appointment of Gabriel-Marie d'Arboussier of Senegal as Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

His appointment was made by the Secretary-General after consultations with the Board of Trustees of the Institute, which has been meeting at the Institute's headquarters on United Nations Plaza.*

Yesterday, the Board elected Kenneth Younger, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom and now Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, as its Chairman.

Mr. d'Arboussier's appointment is for a term of two years.

In making the selection, the Secretary-General told the Board that "Mr. d'Arboussier, in my view, has the right combination of qualifications to ensure success in undertaking this extremely delicate and important assignment, and I believe that not only the Institute, but the United Nations as a whole, would be fortunate if it could secure his services in this capacity".

In a note circulated by the Secretary-General, in February 1964, to the members of the United Nations and specialized agencies, the Secretary-General stated, in connexion with the selection of an Executive Director of the Institute, that he should be a person "with demonstrated capacity for leadership and organization, whose background and abilities are such as to command the respect of the Secretary-General and Under-Secretaries of the United Nations, the heads of the specialized agencies and leading research institutes around the world".

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* For background, see press release M/1607.

25 March 1965

The conditions of service of the Executive Director are similar to those of an Under-Secretary of the United Nations. He will have over-all responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute, in accordance with the general policies formulated by the Board of Trustees.

Mr. d'Arboussier is a Member of Parliament of Senegal, a former Minister of Justice of Senegal and a former Ambassador to France. He is the author of a number of articles and of a book, L'Afrique vers l'Unité, on African unity. He is also the Director of the Board of the review La vie africaine.

* *** *

Note: For biography, see press release BIO/325-M/1614 of 24 March 1965.

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Press Release SG/SM/271
CYP/258
25 March 1965

TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE FROM UNITED STATES TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COSTS OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a note verbale, dated 24 March, to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Representative of the United States, Adlai E. Stevenson:

"The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the Secretary-General's report of March 11, 1965 to the Security Council and to the Security Council resolution of 19 March 1965 extending the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

"The Representative of the United States, confirming his statement of 19 March 1965 before the Security Council, has the honor to inform the Secretary-General that the United States is prepared to make a voluntary contribution of up to \$2,000,000 for the fifth period (27 March through 26 June 1965) of UNFICYP. The amount ultimately contributed by the United States against this pledge will depend on contributions of other Governments and confirmation of cost estimates for the fifth period."

* *** *

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE
Not for use before
3:30 p.m. EST today, 24 March

Press Release SG/SM/270
M/1609
24 March 1965

OPENING STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE
FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH ON 24 MARCH

"I should like first to extend to each of you a very warm welcome to this first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. I am most grateful to you for your readiness to serve the United Nations in this new venture which is of such immense potential importance, and I appreciate your coming to New York at very short notice. Unfortunately, because the notice was so short, the Board is on this occasion not quite complete. Three of those who accepted my invitation to serve as Trustees, Mr. Felipe Herrera, Mr. Raymond Scheyven and Ambassador Roger Seydoux, are unable to be present; and I hope to be able to appoint two or three additional Trustees in the near future.

"It may be useful briefly to outline the various stages which have led up to the launching of the Institute. In December 1962, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of its Second Committee, asked me to study and report on the desirability and feasibility of establishing an Institute or programme under the auspices of the United Nations to be financed by voluntary contributions, public and private. Its terms of reference were to include the training of personnel, particularly from the developing Member States, for administrative and operational assignments with the United Nations and for national service, the provision of advanced training for persons now serving in such posts, and research and seminars on operations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

"I duly reported in the summer of 1963 to the Economic and Social Council and later to the General Assembly outlining the possible character and structure of an Institute to perform the tasks the General Assembly had envisaged, and went on to say that

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'as an institution oriented towards the discharge of the Organization's responsibilities under the Charter, including those devolving on the Secretary-General himself, and furthermore being related intimately with the work of the United Nations and drawing directly from the store of United Nations experience, its character would be unique and it should be able to make a contribution of great value to the United Nations'.

"With regard to the finance required, I suggested that the target should be ten million dollars for a five or six-year period, and that five million dollars should be pledged before the Institute should actively begin operations.

"By resolution 985 of August 1963 the Council endorsed the broad lines of my plan and requested me to explore possible sources of financial assistance to the Institute. The General Assembly later in the year confirmed this request and asked me 'to take the necessary steps to establish the Institute'. The very first approaches made to Governments through their missions in New York and through visits by Mr. Peter Casson, my Personal Representative for the purpose of raising funds, met with a remarkable response, and I was able to report to the Council last summer that I looked forward with confidence to a total sum being subscribed or pledged within the near future not far short of the initial target of five million dollars. I added that if that occurred, and if there were good prospects of further support, I would nominate the Trustees and call a first meeting of the Board with a view to proceeding with the appointment of an Executive Director and to considering the Institute's initial programme and budget. The Council expressed appreciation of the pledges already made to the Institute, appealed to Governments and private sources that had not yet responded, requested me to report the results of my efforts to the Council at its thirty-ninth session (that is to say this summer), and expressed the hope that I would be in a position to establish the Institute before the end of 1964.

"This date has had to be somewhat postponed, but my optimism regarding financial support has not been unjustified. No less than forty-eight countries have already pledged a sum of approximately two-and-a-half million dollars and the contributions forthcoming from private sources bring the total up to three million dollars. Approximately another twenty countries have promised to contribute. It should be a source of great encouragement that almost every country which my Personal Representative has visited, and which has had the purposes and the character of the Institute explained to it, has responded

(more)

24 March 1965

favourably. Nearly half the membership of the United Nations has still to be visited; my Personal Representative is off on his travels again next month and I have every confidence as to the outcome. A few countries have attached conditions to their pledge, though in no case, I believe, are these conditions such as will be difficult to accept. Many contributors have emphasized the importance they attach to the training activities to be undertaken by the Institute as well as their hope that the Institute will begin operations without delay. If you so desire, Mr. Casson will be glad, in due course, to inform you of the views of the Governments he visited.

"The Institute -- or, to use its initials, UNITAR -- has already aroused a great deal of interest among private foundations and academic institutions. Some of them have offered to provide various forms of assistance when work begins on developing the Institute's programme, and four generous gifts have been announced: one from a British charitable foundation, one from an American family trust, the gift by the Rockefeller Foundation of the fine building on United Nations Plaza to house the Institute, in which we are now meeting, and the gift of Mr. John D. Rockefeller III, to refurbish this building for the Institute's use. I am hopeful that, as soon as the programme of the Institute gets under way, further contributions from private sources will be forthcoming.

"Each of you has, I think, received a copy of my printed note about the Institute issued in February 1964 and it is unnecessary for me to repeat what I said there about the purposes, character and structure of the Institute, as well as about my tentative thinking as to its programme and organization. There are, however, certain elements in the plan to which I attach special importance and to which I should like to call your attention.

"In the first place, while there are many institutions which are concerned with the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development, the Institute has the unique purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations itself in pursuing these great objectives.

"Secondly, the Institute is to be an arm of the United Nations. It must from the outset work in the closest possible consultation and co-operation with me and my senior colleagues in the United Nations Secretariat.

"The need to consult and co-ordinate with other international institutions, and to develop contacts with the relevant research and training institutions throughout the world, particularly those of the United Nations and the

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specialized agencies, represents another special feature of the United Nations Institute. Particularly in regard to research, the value of the Institute's contribution will largely depend on the central role that it can play in orienting, on the one hand, and in bringing to bear on the current problems of the United Nations, on the other, work being carried out in various parts of the world.

"Fourthly, it has been the intention from the beginning that the Institute's facilities for research, study and consultation, as well as for training, should be available to the whole United Nations family, that is to say to the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as to the organs of the United Nations itself. As preparations have developed, I have kept in constant touch with my colleagues from the other organizations, and their position has been well summarized in a recent report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council. The members, after expressing keen interest in the Institute, asked me

to maintain consultations with them as the project develops and agreed that it was desirable that the arrangements proposed for the supervision and management of the Institute should provide for representation of agencies in respect of activities of interest to them. In the case of agencies with a major continuing interest, this should take the form of permanent representation on the Board designed to facilitate and promote the fullest co-ordination'.

This is a request which I must refer to you for early consideration, since the ACC has the question of relations with the Institute on the agenda of its next session, which is to be held in April.

"Finally, I must remind you that the idea of the Institute has been developed primarily in the context of the United Nations Decade of Development. While it has always been hoped that the Institute could make a contribution to the United Nations' political tasks, the overwhelming emphasis in the discussions in the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as among the developing countries approached, has related to the economic, social and human rights side of the United Nations objectives and activities. This is yet another factor to which I feel sure you will wish to attach due weight in the task which now lies before you of considering the broad policies of the Institute.

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"On the subject of the Institute's programme, I do not wish at this point to add to or comment on the suggestions I made in the pamphlet of February 1964. Let me just say that I am convinced that in the early days of the Institute's life, it will be necessary to lean heavily on existing training and research institutions by farming out certain projects to them. Although much of the planning will, of necessity, be done at its headquarters in New York, I hope that as much training as possible will be done in Geneva and at our regional centres. Eventually, short seminars, designed primarily for officials who cannot absent themselves for long periods, might be held in various regions faced with similar needs. The need, among the developing countries, for more trained personnel -- particularly for dealing with international organizations and in the obtaining and administering of technical assistance -- is more urgent than ever."

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Note: For background release on Institute, see press release M/1607 which will be available later today.

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Press Release SG/SM/269
23 March 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL SENDS CONGRATULATIONS
TO UNITED STATES

Following is the text of a cable sent today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson:

"I wish to extend to you and to the people of the United States my heartiest congratulations on another outstanding achievement in the peaceful exploration of outer space. May I request you to convey my personal felicitations and good wishes to Major Virgil I. Grissom and Lieutenant-Commander John W. Young and to the brilliant scientists and technicians who co-operated in this historic venture."

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