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UNITED NATIONS

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

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Press Release SG/SM/559
6 September 1966

TEXT OF LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Following is the text of a letter dated 6 September, from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Matthys I. Botha:

"I heard, with deep regret, of the assassination this morning of Prime Minister Verwoerd. As you know, I abhor violence in any form.

"Please convey my sincere condolences to Mrs. Verwoerd, and to the other members of the bereaved family."

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UNITED NATIONS

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

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Press Release SG/SM/558
2 September 1966

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT,
HELD AT ECLA HEADQUARTERS, SANTIAGO, CHILE,
ON 30 AUGUST 1966

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: On the last day of my brief visit to Santiago, I want to express my profound gratitude to the Government of Chile for its kind invitation which has made it possible for me to visit this country. During my stay here, I have had extremely useful exchanges of views with the President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other leaders of Government on matters of mutual interest to Chile and to the United Nations. I am very grateful not only to the Government of Chile but also to the people of Santiago for the warm welcome they have given me, and am glad to have this opportunity of meeting here with you who represent the Press in order to answer your questions on matters that are of great concern to you.

QUESTION: There is one piece of news of world-wide importance that we should like to hear from you. Would you tell us whether or not you are planning to accept a second mandate as Secretary-General of the United Nations?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: As I have said on many previous occasions, my first obligation is to report to the Security Council and, at the same time, to the entire membership of the United Nations. I made it clear before leaving New York last week that I would inform the Security Council and the Member States of the United Nations as to my decision, on 1 September -- that is, on my return to New York.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, you are on record as saying that certain provisions of the Charter of the United Nations have become anachronistic. Do you consider that the right of veto of the five Great Powers in the Security Council is one such anachronism?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Charter of the United Nations was drafted 21 years ago, as you all know, in the context of the political situation prevailing at that time. It is understandable that after all these years, some of its provisions should appear to be anachronistic, but it would not be proper for the Secretary-General to make suggestions as to what should be modified, amended or changed in those provisions. As you will no doubt remember, the very important changes that have been made in the composition of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are the result of a resolution that was put forward by the Member States themselves in the General Assembly.

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QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, you have taken an active role in bringing about the peaceful solution of several crises, such as Cyprus, Viet-Nam and the Dominican Republic. Would you give us your appraisal of the prospects of settling remaining crises and the prospects for a peaceful world in the years to come?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: In the past 58 months during which I have held the office of Secretary-General, a number of political problems have been settled by the United Nations. To give a few examples, the United Nations has been able to disengage itself militarily in the Congo; it has played a significant role in the peaceful transfer of West Irian to Indonesia with the full agreement of both parties; it ascertained the views of North Borneo and Sarawak as to whether their peoples really wished to join Malaysia; it has succeeded in maintaining law and order in the Middle East and in bringing peace to Cyprus; it restored peace in Kashmir late last year after the bloody struggle between India and Pakistan; it has performed certain other functions decided on by the Security Council and, through the appointment of Mr. Mayobre as my Special Representative in the Dominican Republic, the United Nations has been able to play a very significant part in the political field. However, much still remains to be done to eradicate the root causes of the tensions and conflicts and to find a lasting solution for peace.

The question of Viet-Nam does not legitimately come within the province of the United Nations. Twelve years ago, when Viet-Nam was becoming a critical issue, many of the parties directly concerned in the conflict discussed ways and means of solving it. It was decided that since some of the parties directly involved were not Members of the United Nations, the matter should be discussed at a conference in Geneva, outside the framework of the United Nations. A conference was held and an agreement reached. The same considerations apply today. Some of the parties concerned in the conflict are not Members of the United Nations. If I may say so, of those directly involved, only the United States is a Member.

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In my opinion, and in that of many of the Member States, if the United Nations, through its principal organs, is called upon to discuss a particular dispute, it is essential that it should hear both sides of the question. Both parties must be given an opportunity to present their respective cases so that the United Nations can come to a just and fair decision on the matter. Another factor that must be taken into account is that the Geneva Agreement of 1954 set up international machinery known as the International Control Commission to deal with the problem of Viet-Nam outside the sphere of the United Nations. Consequently, it is the Commission that is more relevant to the handling of this question rather than the United Nations.

But, despite these considerations, I have been trying in a private capacity over the last three years or so to contribute towards a peaceful solution of the problem. So far, I have met with no success. In my view, the Viet-Nam question is basically the continuing struggle of a people for independence. Coming as I do from a country which has experienced many long years of struggle for independence, I am well aware of what it means to fight for this. It is an expression of the innermost yearnings of a long-suffering people for independence, and their determination to fashion their own future by their own means. It is important to bear in mind that when the struggle for independence takes too long, and has to be fought for too violently, it is inevitable that extremist forces should come to the surface and dominate the scene. This does not make for democracy or peace, but it is a fact in Viet-Nam.

To pass now to the second part of the question, asking for my assessment of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, I must point out that the General Assembly has set up a Special Committee of 33 to examine all aspects of those operations and to report to the General Assembly, which will then act on the basis of its findings. Another body with a bearing on this matter is the Special Committee of 14, which was created to look into the financial situation of the United Nations, and also submit its findings to the General Assembly. A great deal depends on the reaction of the General Assembly to these two reports.

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In this respect, I would like to pay a tribute to Chile for its unfailing co-operation with the United Nations, not only in economic and social questions, but also in political activities such as the peace-keeping operations in Kashmir and the Middle East.

As regards the future over-all prospects for world peace, they depend primarily on the attitude of the Member States. If they wish the United Nations to be strong, it will be strong; but if they wish it to remain weak, it will remain so. However, I am sure that the vast majority want the world organization to develop into a really effective instrument for carrying out the functions envisaged in the Charter.

As I see the world situation today, there are four main sources of tension:

- (1) The differences in political ideologies;
- (2) Economic and social disparities between peoples, i.e. between the rich and the poor. As I have said before, ever since the Second World War, the rich countries have been getting richer and the poor countries poorer. This division is, in my view, more serious and, ultimately, more explosive than ideological divisions;
- (3) The legacy of colonialism. Although colonialism is on its way out, some potentially explosive situations in certain parts of the world are due to vestiges of colonialism;
- (4) The conflicts caused by discrimination on the grounds of race and colour, which have created serious tensions in many parts of the world.

If the United Nations is to perform its functions in keeping with the Charter, it must be able to face these realities with courage and determination. I am sure that it has the will to do so, and am hopeful that these sources of tension will be eliminated in due course.

QUESTION: Mention has been made of problems that are international in character, but the United Nations is also facing internal problems of a financial nature. It is well known that certain countries, among them the Soviet Union and France, have refused for reasons of principle to contribute to the financing of certain United Nations expenses, thus creating difficulties for the Organization. I should like to know how the situation stands and what possibilities there are of finding a solution.

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The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The United Nations has been beset by very serious financial problems during the last few years, principally because of the expenses incurred in relation to the Congo operations. So serious are these problems that the General Assembly has appointed a Special Committee of 14 to look into the financial situation of the whole Organization and to recommend to the General Assembly what measures it should take to remedy the situation. This Committee has met frequently during the last few months and has submitted two reports in the course of 1966, the second as recently as a month ago.

These reports, which clearly state the actual financial situation of the United Nations, will be taken up by the General Assembly at its twenty-first session and will serve as a basis for its decisions. I hope very much that Member States will make substantial voluntary contributions in order to cover the deficit and that the twenty-first session of the General Assembly will see an improvement in the financial situation.

QUESTION: Reverting to the question of Viet-Nam, I should like to know whether your Representative to Cambodia, whose visit to Phnom Penh coincides with that of General de Gaulle, has been entrusted with the task of talking with General de Gaulle, the Head of the Government of Cambodia or representatives of the Government of North Viet-Nam? I should also like to know whether there has been any contact between you and General de Gaulle and whether there is any difference of opinion between you; whether you, too, consider it essential that the bombing of North Viet-Nam should cease and the Geneva Conference be reconvened; and finally, whether you consider that a solution to the problem could be reached on the basis of General de Gaulle's unofficial proposal.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: First of all, I wish to state categorically that my Special Representative, Ambassador de Ribbing of Sweden, was sent to Thailand and Cambodia on the basis of a request by the two Governments to perform certain functions relating to disputes at the frontier between the two countries and certain other common problems. His mission is in no way connected with the question of Viet-Nam, and he has no mandate to contact any representative of North Viet-Nam.

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As regards the second part of the question, generally speaking, I am in agreement with the concepts of General de Gaulle regarding the modalities of a solution to the Viet-Nam problem. I should like to recall that in 1963, when General de Gaulle proposed that there should be a conference to discuss the neutralization of South-East Asia (South Viet-Nam, North Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia), I was one of the first to endorse that proposal. I have had several opportunities to visit Paris at the kind invitation of the French Government, and on each occasion I discussed the problem of Viet-Nam, among other things, with General de Gaulle. I would repeat that, in general, I am in agreement with him regarding the procedures for reaching a peaceful solution of the Viet-Nam problem.

I should like to reiterate my latest attempts to contribute to a solution of the problem. Earlier this year, I made a public proposal containing the following three points: (1) cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam; (2) the scaling down of all military activities by all sides; (3) willingness on the part of all participants to hold discussions with those actually fighting. I feel very strongly that only if these points are complied with can an appropriate climate be created for discussions. Otherwise, the prospects for a peaceful settlement are very remote, resulting in many more deaths and much greater destruction of property.

QUESTION: What are the possibilities that Communist China will be admitted to the United Nations, and what is your opinion, Mr. Secretary-General, on this question?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: My views on this subject are well known, and I have repeated them on many occasions. It is necessary, on such a question, to make a distinction between two U Thants: the U Thant who was the Ambassador of Burma to the United Nations, and the U Thant who is Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the former capacity, he was able to express his views openly, candidly and frankly; in the second, he expresses the views of the principal organs of the United Nations, rather than his own. But I have often expressed

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my belief in the principle of the universality of the United Nations. If the United Nations is to perform all the functions incumbent upon it, the principle of universality of membership, which is implicit in the Charter, must be respected.

Mr. NARDON (La Nación): Mr. Secretary-General, on behalf of all the journalists gathered here, I should like to thank you for granting us this Press conference and to salute you as a true emissary of peace.

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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/557
1 September 1966

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, was communicated today to the Permanent Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations:

Members of the Organization are aware that my term as Secretary-General of the United Nations expires on 3 November 1966. During recent months I have had exchanges of view with many of them, including in some instances Heads of State and Government. I believe that it would be proper for me and helpful to the Governments of Member States to make my own decision known at the present time.

In this connexion it may be pertinent to recall that in the first instance I was appointed Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for the unfinished term of Dag Hammarskjöld from 3 November 1961 to 10 April 1963. In November 1962, when the question of the extension of my term was under consideration, many members of the Security Council as it was then constituted asked me to accept a further term of five years from the date of expiry of that mandate, until 10 April 1968. I expressed my preference to serve a term of five years from 3 November 1961, the date of my appointment as Acting Secretary-General, to 3 November 1966. In taking this attitude I had two considerations in mind. One was to reinforce the practice already established that the normal term of the Secretary-General should be five years. The other was my reluctance to accept a commitment to serve as Secretary-General for a longer period than five years.

I would also like to avail myself of this occasion to refer briefly to some of the problems which the Organization has had to face since I was first appointed to this office. Though I am making these observations at this time, I do not wish to relate them to the variety of considerations -- personal, official and political -- which, as I have explained more than once, have influenced my own decision.

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Members of the Organization may remember that, on 30 November 1962, when I accepted the extension of my term to 3 November 1966, I referred to a statement I had made earlier that "my decision to accept the position of Secretary-General for a longer term would be governed primarily by a few considerations, including the prospects of an early settlement of the Congo problem, the prospects of the stability of this world Organization as a potent force for peace, and the prospects of my playing a humble part in bringing about a more favourable atmosphere for the easing of tension...".

Looking back over the work of the United Nations during the last fifty-eight months I feel justified in saying that a measure of progress has been made in some of these respects.

In particular, while the financial solvency of the Organization has not yet been assured, there is no longer the same sense of crisis and anxiety about it. I am still hopeful that, in line with the decisions taken earlier by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and the General Assembly, and in the light of the recent report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, substantial voluntary contributions will be forthcoming which will place the Organization on a basis of complete solvency, so that it can face the great tasks ahead with confidence.

The need of the United Nations for solvency does not, however, apply to the question of finances alone. A lack of new ideas and fresh initiatives and a weakening of the will to find means of strengthening and expanding genuine international co-operation would have even more serious consequences. In respect of one of its most important activities, that of peace-keeping, the promise held out by the demonstrated usefulness and success of our extensive operations in recent years has remained unfulfilled because of the continuing failure to agree on basic principles. In my judgement it is important that, in conformity with the Charter, the United Nations should be enabled to function effectively in this field.

The task of peace-building is no less important. In this regard it may be claimed that, while the United Nations Development Decade, which was launched with high hopes, has fallen short of its modest objectives, on the positive side

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it has stimulated the efforts of the United Nations to equip itself with more effective means -- the consolidated United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development -- of tackling some of the basic problems of development.

Speaking still of the situation within this Organization, I may say that during all these months I have striven to make the Secretariat more truly international in outlook and approach and a more energetic and efficient servant of the Governments of Member States. I believe that, within its limitations, the Secretariat has performed well and that, with further organizational improvements, it is capable of doing even better. I take this opportunity to place on record my deep appreciation of the co-operation I have received from my colleagues in the Secretariat.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to my friends and colleagues in the delegations for their unfailing co-operation and courtesy. The progress made during these fifty-eight months is due in large measure to their friendly counsel and assistance.

Members of the Organization are surely aware of my abiding concern for peace. During the fifty-eight months that I have been in office, hopes and prospects have risen and fallen many times. The world situation appears to me to be extremely serious. The state of affairs in South-East Asia is already a source of grave concern and is bound to be a source of even greater anxiety, not only to the parties directly involved and to the major Powers but also to other Members of the Organization. It is of the deepest concern to me personally. The cruelty of this war, and the suffering it has caused the people of Viet-Nam are a constant reproach to the conscience of humanity. Today it seems to me, as it has seemed for many months, that the pressure of events is remorselessly leading towards a major war, while efforts to reverse that trend are lagging disastrously behind. In my view the tragic error is being repeated of relying on force and military means in a deceptive pursuit of peace. I am convinced that peace in South-East Asia can be obtained only through respect for the principles agreed upon at Geneva in 1954, and indeed for those contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

Elsewhere in the world, too, there are signs of growing tension. While the situation in Europe has shown signs of improvement, the state of affairs in many

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1 September 1966

other parts of the world has undergone some deterioration. The increasing imbalance in the world economic situation, to which I have constantly drawn attention, most recently in my statement to the Economic and Social Council, can only add to the clear and present dangers.

I must also confess to a sense of dissatisfaction with the fact that the Organization has not yet achieved universality of membership. I believe I am not alone in this feeling. Many of the problems facing the world today, be they regional or global, become more intractable because of this circumstance. This is true, for example, of the lack of progress in such vital fields as disarmament.

It thus happens that, owing mainly to the international situation and to circumstances beyond the control of the Organization, no decisive progress has been made by the Governments of Member States in the co-operative efforts which are essential if the Organization is to serve effectively the cause of peace and to contribute significantly to the economic development of the poorer regions of the world.

I now come to the question of my own plans for the future. I have been greatly touched, indeed overwhelmed, by the many kind references to my work which have been made at the level of Heads of State and Government, as well as on an informal and personal basis by my friends and colleagues. If I have not found it possible to accept their urging to be available for a further term of office, it is not for lack of appreciation and gratitude for their sentiments. It is my belief, as I have said more than once in the past, that a Secretary-General of the United Nations should not normally serve for more than one term. I have similarly made it known that I do not believe in the concept of indispensability of any particular person for any particular job. In the circumstances the conclusion I have reached will, I hope, be understood by all my friends and colleagues: I have decided not to offer myself for a second term as Secretary-General, and to leave the Security Council unfettered in its recommendation to the General Assembly with regard to the next Secretary-General.

I am sure that my own unwillingness to be available for a second term as Secretary-General will not be misconstrued by those who know me. I have an abiding and unshakable faith in the United Nations and in its ultimate success. Despite the difficulties facing the Organization, I believe and hope that the world will continue its efforts to develop the United Nations as an indispensable instrument for the attainment of a peaceful and just world order. In this task, I pledge my personal support and whole-hearted devotion.

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/120
31 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES VISIT IN SANTIAGO

(The following was received from the United Nations Information officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

Continuing his visit in Santiago, Chile, the Secretary-General, U Thant, called at 10 a.m. yesterday (30 August) on the Mayor, Manuel Fernandez Diaz, at City Hall. The Secretary-General was presented with a scroll, declaring him a distinguished visitor of Santiago, and also a medal.

In acknowledging the greeting of the Mayor, the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation for the extremely warm welcome by the people and the Government of Chile, especially the citizens of Santiago.

At 11 a.m., the Secretary-General laid a wreath at the O'Higgins monument and reviewed a military parade by elements of the Chilean Army.

At 11:30 a.m., U Thant visited Osvaldo Illanes Benítez, President of the Supreme Court.

At noon, he visited José Garcia, Vice-President of the Senate, and had talks with a number of Senators, who asked him questions about Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General reiterated his views on the problem.

At 1 p.m., U Thant attended a luncheon given in his honour by Senator Renán Fuentealba, who is President of the Chilean Senate's Commission for External Relations.

The Secretary-General held a press conference at 4:30 p.m. yesterday in the present building of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

At 7 p.m., U Thant gave an address at the University of Chile, with about 300 students and members of the faculty in the audience.

At 9:30 p.m., the Secretary-General gave a dinner at the Hotel Carrera in honour of the President of Chile, Eduardo Frei; Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes; other Cabinet Ministers; José Antonio Mayobre, Executive Secretary of ECLA; Hernán Santa Cruz, Assistant Director-General for Latin American Affairs of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and other United Nations officials.

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Comments at Press Conference

At his press conference, the Secretary-General answered questions about his second term by saying that his first obligation was to the Member States, and that he would make his decision known on 1 September.

Responding to several questions on Viet-Nam, the Secretary-General explained at length why the United Nations could not be involved in a peaceful settlement. He reiterated his views regarding the longing of the Vietnamese people for independence, without interference from any outside party.

Answering a question concerning the views of General Charles de Gaulle, President of France, on South-East Asia, and rumours that the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cambodia and Thailand, Herbert de Ribbing, was going on a Vietnamese mission, U Thant categorically denied that the de Ribbing mission had anything to do with Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General added that he was in general agreement with General de Gaulle's views on the modalities of a peaceful solution. He recalled that he had endorsed General de Gaulle's idea in 1963 for a conference to neutralize South-East Asia.

The Secretary-General repeated his three points on:

- (1) cessation of bombing of North Viet-Nam;
- (2) scaling down by all parties of all military activities in South Viet-Nam; and
- (3) the willingness of some of the parties to discuss with those who are actually fighting.

The Secretary-General said these steps alone would lead to an atmosphere congenial for a peaceful settlement.

Concerning the financial difficulties of the United Nations, he said he hoped that Member States would make voluntary contributions by the time of the opening of the forthcoming Assembly session.

As to the desirability of having the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, the Secretary-General said this was a matter for Member States but he believed that if the United Nations were to perform all its functions, the principle of universality should be applied and respected.

The Secretary-General was expected to leave Santiago at 8:30 a.m. today.

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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/556
30 August 1966

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT,
HELD AT THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE, MEXICO, D.F.,
ON 26 AUGUST 1966

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I am very happy to meet you and answer some of the questions you might like to put to me on the second day of my visit to this great city. I wish to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Mexico for having very kindly extended an invitation to me and for making my visit to Mexico City possible. I am also very much touched by the warmth of the hospitality and reception given to me during my brief stay in this city by the people of Mexico. As you all know, as I have said on previous occasions, Mexico has been one of the most dedicated Members of the United Nations, dedicated to the ideas and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations. Mexico's contribution to the work of the United Nations, in the political field as well as in the economic and social fields, has been very significant. Besides that, Mexico has been very well represented at the United Nations by distinguished diplomats.

As you all know, I am on my way to Santiago de Chile to inaugurate officially the United Nations building which will accommodate the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. The inauguration ceremony will take place on Monday, 29 August; then on 31 August I am going back to New York to resume my duties.

Now, I shall be very glad to answer questions that may be put to me.

QUESTION: Do you have any objections to announcing your decision as to continuation of your duties as Secretary-General of the United Nations?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: My first obligation regarding the announcement of my availability, or not, for the second term is to the entire membership of the United Nations, particularly to the Security Council. I am obligated to inform the Security Council and, for that matter, other Members of the United Nations first, before I make an announcement elsewhere. As I have indicated earlier in New York, I propose to inform the members of the Security Council, as well as the entire membership of the United Nations, on 1 September, on my return to New York. So, before that date, I don't think it will be very proper for me to reveal my decision.

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QUESTION: What action is the United Nations planning to adopt in order to avoid the expansion of the Viet-Nam war and its development into a wider conflict?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Regarding the conflict in Viet-Nam, I have stated my position on several occasions in the past and I have stated the reasons also why the United Nations cannot and should not be involved in this conflict, at least for the present. My feeling is that the vast majority of the Members of the United Nations agree with me that the United Nations, as it is at present constituted, is not in a position to contribute materially towards the solution of the Viet-Nam problem, since there is already an international machinery constituted 12 years ago in Geneva. This view has been shared by the vast majority of the Member States. But, although the United Nations has not been involved in seeking a solution to the conflict in Viet-Nam, I have been trying in my private capacity to bring about a peaceful settlement of the problem in the last three years. I think it is common knowledge that the various steps I have taken in the last three years have not been conclusive so far, but I can assure you, as I have assured the leaders of the Government of Mexico, that I will continue with my endeavours to contribute towards a peaceful solution of the problem in my private capacity.

QUESTION: Senator Robert Kennedy has said in a recent speech that, following the Second World War, the United States had neglected Latin America, and that a peaceful revolution is coming in one way or another. Would you care to make any statement?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, I don't think it would be proper on my part to comment on a statement of a public figure like Senator Robert Kennedy on his assessment of the situation in Latin America and the potentialities of this great continent. All I can say now is that many leaders of Latin America are exerting their utmost to bring about a closer relationship and even, if possible, some kind of integration to be of benefit to all of them. I think they are speaking in terms of affinity of interests. In my view, Latin America is in an advantageous position compared to other regions. Here in this great

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continent you have the same historical background, the same cultural background, the same linguistic background, and I think these factors constitute a very favourable climate for some kind of integration and closer collaboration, particularly in the economic fields which many leaders of Latin America have been obsessed with. I think that because of the factors I have explained, Latin America is in a better position than many other regions for a closely integrated and prosperous future.

QUESTION: Is there any project that may render the United Nations operative and effective in the solution of conflicts like this one of Viet-Nam?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: According to the Charter, the United Nations has the primary responsibility to maintain peace in any part of the world. Of course, one of the primary purposes of the United Nations when it was constituted was, according to the language of the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind". So I think it is very legitimate for anybody to ask this question: why the United Nations is impotent to deal effectively with the very serious crisis in Viet-Nam. I have, on many previous occasions, explained why the United Nations has not been able to contribute significantly towards a solution of this problem. As I indicated a moment ago, of all the participants in the conflict, only one, the United States of America, is a Member of the United Nations; others are not members of the United Nations. Secondly, for the solution of the Viet-Nam problem there is already machinery set up by the Geneva Agreement of 1954. This machinery is outside the scope of the United Nations. And thirdly, many important members of the Security Council today would not view with favour any attempt by any Member State to bring the matter to the Security Council. They are opposed to the Security Council being involved in the discussions of this question for reasons, some of which I have stated earlier. So the question is not concerned with the modification of the Charter of the United Nations or amending the Charter of the United Nations. It is concerned with the realities of the situation today. These are among the reasons why the United Nations cannot and should not be involved in finding a solution to the Vietnamese conflict.

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QUESTION: We all wish you to be re-elected, Sir, but should you not decide in this direction, would you favour having a Latin American or, particularly, a Mexican, appointed?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, this is a matter first of all for the Security Council to take the initiative. I must make it very clear that I have not informed the Security Council so far of my decision. As I indicated a moment ago, I will inform the members of the Security Council and simultaneously all the Members of the United Nations on 1 September. In case I decide not to offer myself for the second term, the procedure is for the Security Council to meet and discuss and deliberate on a suitable successor. I have no means of knowing, in such an eventuality, whom the Security Council will recommend to the General Assembly for acceptance. It is not for the Secretary-General to indicate his desire or his thinking on who the next Secretary-General should be. It would be very improper on my part to venture an opinion on this question.

QUESTION: On 1 September, the President of Mexico is going to read his Report to the Nation, in which he will express his views on the economic, social and general situation of the country. Would you care to comment on the political stability and on the economic and social development of Mexico?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Again I think it would not be proper for me in my capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations to assess the domestic policies or foreign policies of Member States or the economic and financial policies of Member States. To my knowledge, there is a very commendable degree of stability and prospects for improvement both in the economic and social fields in this country. From all available information, Mexico has been one of the most, if I may say so, dedicated Members of the United Nations; one of the best Member States, in the sense of service, of the United Nations. Apart from that, I do not think it would be appropriate on my part to evaluate the economic and social conditions of this country.

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QUESTION: Has Indonesia taken any concrete steps towards returning to the United Nations?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: So far, there has been no official communication from the Government of Indonesia to the United Nations regarding the possibility of resumption of all activities in the United Nations by Indonesia, but there are indications that some leaders of Indonesia are desirous of coming back to the family of nations. If the Government of Indonesia decides to come back to the United Nations, I am sure that the entire membership will be delighted to welcome her back to the family of nations. Of course Indonesia has come back, as you all know, to UNESCO and to some of the other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

QUESTION: You have stated, Sir, that the Security Council considers that the United Nations should not enter the Viet-Nam conflict and that you, in your personal capacity, have tried to bring about some solution. How can this be accepted, when the functions of the United Nations should be to avoid conflicts and suffering for the people?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think I made it clear earlier that many members of the Security Council feel that the United Nations, as it is at present constituted, cannot be involved in a solution of the Viet-Nam conflict. I also said that in my private capacity I have been trying my best to bring about a peaceful solution. I think the two statements do not conflict. To give you some background, I must say that I belong to that part of the world -- as you all know, I come from Burma, very close to the scene of the conflict. Apart from that, I know personally some of the leaders involved in the conflict. I have studied the situation in Viet-Nam very closely for a number of years, even long before I came to New York as Ambassador from my country. Most people in Burma with experience of war and struggle for independence, as you have experienced the struggle for independence many years ago, know what it means to fight for independence. So my assessment of the situation and my understanding of the background of the Vietnamese conflict are different from the assessment and understanding of many people. As I see the situation, the

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Viet-Nam conflict primarily should be related to the longings of the long-suffering people of Viet-Nam for independence and their desire to fashion their own future by their own means, without interference from outside. When the people have to struggle for independence so long and so violently, it is inevitable that extreme forces come to the surface and dominate the scene. That is one of the great lessons of history, as far as I am concerned. If the people have to struggle for independence too long, causing tremendous sacrifices, then it is inevitable that very extreme forces come to the surface and dominate the scene. Such a situation does not contribute towards the cause of peace or the cause of democracy. That is why in my private capacity, as a man coming from that part of the world, as one who has been obsessed with peace throughout his life, I have been trying my utmost to contribute towards a peaceful solution of the problem.

QUESTION: Since, as you have said, the Viet-Nam dispute is outside the competence of the United Nations, is it one of your missions, one of your purposes as a man of peace and as a democrat, to seek the good offices of Mexico and other Latin American countries to mediate this dispute outside the United Nations?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: In my travels to the various capitals of Member States in the last few months and, for that matter, in the last few years, inevitably the question of Viet-Nam came up for discussion. It was not my intention to try to influence Member States to mediate in the Viet-Nam conflict; it is for the Member States themselves to take the initiative. As regards my present trip to Mexico also, I have had very useful exchanges of views on the Viet-Nam situation, both with the Foreign Minister and His Excellency the President. These discussions were very useful, but it was not my intention to try to influence the Member States to use their good offices or to offer to act as mediators in this dispute because I know that any mediation effort at this stage -- let me stress, at this stage -- would not be realistic.

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QUESTION: What is your opinion on the contemplated denuclearization treaty for Latin America, and is it your feeling that the nuclear Powers will support such a treaty?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: As you all know, many Latin American countries, particularly your country, Mexico, have been exerting efforts in the last few years towards the denuclearization of Latin America. Of course, Mexico, in particular, has initiated some studies on the subject and I have been most gratified to be able to contribute to these studies by the provision of some technical experts to co-operate with the Government of Mexico and to assist the Government in these studies. They are in a very preliminary stage now, as you all know. It is too early now to assess whether there are immediate prospects of the denuclearization of Latin America. Regarding the attitude of the big Powers on this problem, their attitude has been made known, particularly in the General Assembly debates. So I do not want to summarize, or give the substance of their points of view -- they are well known.

QUESTION: Would you consider the United States proposal of creating in Latin America a sort of NATO compatible with the principles of the United Nations?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I am not familiar with the subject. To be frank, I am not aware of the United States Government's intentions to create another NATO in Latin America. This is news to me. So I am sorry that I am not in a position to answer this question.

QUESTION: What are the prospects for the admission of Communist China to the United Nations, and if so, what should be the contribution of that country towards the settlement of the question of Viet-Nam and its contribution to world peace?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have stated my position on previous occasions regarding my concept of the United Nations. I believe in the principle of universality of membership of the United Nations which is,

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of course, implied in the Charter. Regarding the question of the representation of China in the United Nations, I think it is very necessary for you to know that there are two U Thants. One U Thant, as representative of Burma, has certain definite views on this subject, as I have made known on previous occasions. Another U Thant, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, has to be guided in such matters by the decisions of the principal organs of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly and the Security Council. So, in my capacity as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I do not wish to make any statement on this question. But I believe personally that if the concept of universality of membership is fulfilled, the United Nations will be in a much stronger position to settle many problems which it cannot settle now, particularly the problem of Viet-Nam.

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

Press Release SG/SM/555
TAD/B/158
30 August 1966

TEXT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE TO THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, read on his behalf by Raoul Prebisch, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to the fourth session of the United Nations Trade and Development Board which opened today in Geneva:

"At the time of the opening of your deliberations, I should like to address a brief message to you.

"The Trade and Development Board is a vital part of the United Nations machinery for international economic co-operation. I am glad to say that, with the completion of the arrangements for the establishment of the secretariat of UNCTAD in Geneva, its day-to-day operations are now fully integrated in the existing administrative machinery of the United Nations Secretariat as a whole and this should facilitate the work of the Board in the discharge of its functions.

"The Board's tasks, purposes and endeavours are looked upon by the world community with a deep feeling of hope, because UNCTAD involves a sustained effort on the part of the United Nations to secure prosperity and peace for all peoples.

"Since its inception, the Board has attempted to give practical meaning to the policies adopted at the first Trade Conference. A report before you will indicate that not enough progress has thus far been made in this respect, and that it is essential to act with true solidarity and determination if the basic aims that governments set themselves at Geneva over two years ago are to be attained. UNCTAD offers a unique opportunity for all nations to help each other to achieve more rapid development through better co-operation in matters

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of trade. The elements are at hand for a concerted attack on the problems of development assistance, commodity trade and export promotion, and a joint effort to define concrete and practical solutions.

"A renewed expression of intention becomes particularly important at the time when the Board initiates the arrangements relating to the second conference. I hope that the Conference will give new impetus to the ideas that emerged in 1964 with regard to international trade and development. The Board will no doubt ensure that the Conference opens up even larger opportunities for international action in this field for the benefit of all nations.

"May success attend this Fourth Session of the Trade and Development Board."

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Press Release SG/SM/550
30 August 1966

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE,
IN SANTIAGO, CHILE, ON 30 AUGUST 1966

"To be here with you today is both a pleasure and an honour. It is also a most stimulating occasion for me, all the more so because I am well aware of the significant role that Chile and its universities continue to play within the efforts of Latin America to adjust itself to our rapidly changing world.

"My duties as Secretary-General of the United Nations have not allowed me to travel to this and other regions as frequently or as extensively as I would have liked. At United Nations Headquarters and at international meetings, I am, of course, in close contact with the permanent representatives of Member Governments, but I naturally attach great importance and usefulness to exchanges of views with the leaders of Member States in their own countries.

"Moreover, on this occasion, I am glad to have had the opportunity to thank personally the Governments and peoples of Chile and Mexico for the generous hospitality they have extended as host countries to the headquarters and the main branch office, respectively, of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

"Needless to say, we are thankful as well to these and the other Latin American Governments for the valuable support they have been giving not only to the regional efforts of ECLA in particular, but also to the objectives and activities of the United Nations in general. Indeed, much of the spirit and many of the principles embodied in the Charter of San Francisco in 1945, and several of the most important actions undertaken by the United Nations since then, are in line with the ideas and ideals of the countries of Latin America.

"This is, after all, as it should be, because the common needs, aims and hopes that are bringing the developing countries closer and closer together at the United Nations may well strengthen the Organization with a cohesive influence which it still greatly needs, particularly in view of the very serious differences that continue to exist among the great Powers.

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"The future of the United Nations, therefore, rests to a considerable degree with the small nations -- in their sense of responsibility, their independence and objectivity, their dedication to the principles of the Charter and, above all, their collective determination to help attenuate and bring an end to the dangerous tensions which have affected international relations so adversely during the last twenty years.

"One does not have to look very hard to find the causes at the root of many of these tensions and conflicts. The world which is largely reflected in the United Nations is still plagued with rivalries between political ideologies, wide economic disparities, still unsolved colonial and racial problems and, perhaps most of all, a considerable gap between stated ideals and actual practice. Although there is not a government in the world which does not profess, in its own way, to be peace-loving, it is still uncertain whether all nations have completely abandoned the state of mind that has so often led to war -- the nationalistic urge to dominate and extend, by various means, their spheres of influence, and the conviction of the unquestionable superiority of their own particular traditions, forms and ways of life.

"Nor has it been possible effectively to eliminate thus far the use of force, whether openly or covertly, as a means of furthering political or other ends. Such attitudes inevitably breed in other nations the fears, resentments and suspicions which historically have also created the atmosphere of tensions in which wars break out.

"Again, although a declaration of human rights and fundamental freedoms has been internationally proclaimed, not many countries can justifiably take pride in having applied it fully, while other nations and groups have yet to accept the practical consequences of these ideals.

"Neither can it be said that all nations are doing everything they could and should do to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor.

"It is this failure of practical behaviour to keep pace with professed ideals and aims which undermines and, in the end, can frustrate the work of peace-keeping and peace-building. The fact is that, though the desire for peace is undeniable, it is not enough to pursue it actively only when a dire international emergency breaks out above our heads. A constant effort, year in and year out, on the part of all nations, both large and small, is essential to build a lasting peace.

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"I have expressed similar ideas before, some in connexion with the great encyclical Pacem in Terris of Pope John XXIII, others within the assessments called for on such occasions as the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations. Nevertheless, there are times -- and this is one of them -- when repetition is warranted, indeed necessary, in order to stress the continuing validity of our main ideals and objectives.

"Let me reiterate, therefore, that we must work towards a new world order in which aggressive nationalism or expansionism are banished, as a means of promoting or protecting national interests, where extremism is no longer necessary to support a different point of view, and where diversity can be preserved without resort to prejudice and hatred. We have seen how the great religions of the world, after lamentable periods of bigotry and violence, have become accommodated to each other, without losing their influence or spiritual independence, by a mutual respect for, and understanding of, the spiritual and moral aims which are common to them all. We must try, both earnestly and urgently, to extend that process of accommodation to the political, ideological, economic and racial differences that divide the world today. What are our chances of doing so?

"First of all, I believe that we are increasingly conscious of the need to harmonize our thoughts and actions towards that end. We have an increasing fear and hatred of war throughout the world, based partly upon the new destructive power of weapons, and partly upon a moral revulsion against violence. The voices of peoples all over the world are raised, as never before, against war and actions likely to lead to war. There is no real peace in a balance of terror between the great nuclear Powers; moreover, the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons would greatly increase the grave risks that face us.

"Again on the positive side, we have general agreement, in principle at least, that the domination of one nation or group of nations by another is intolerable, and that mutual aid and co-operation are the best basis for the relationship between nations. We have the possibility of raising standards of living and opportunity through international co-operation -- an immense incentive to peace. We can, if we work together, provide within a generation or so a much higher standard of living and reasonable opportunities for all men. We have the possibility of great advances in science, technology and in unexplored realms of the human mind, as well as in outer space -- advances

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all of which will be more rapid and less risky if the skill and talent of all nations can be combined in an organized effort. Finally, we have an agreed framework, the United Nations system, within which, if we wish, we can pursue our aims and bring about an orderly development in international life. This all adds up to a considerable balance-sheet of positive assets.

"Our problems and liabilities are also considerable, and we sometimes tend to be more impressed by them than by our assets. The greatest obstacle to the realization of the principles of the Charter is the inescapable fact that power politics still operates, both overtly and covertly, in international relations. The concept of power politics, whether as the instrument of nationalism or of ideological extremism, is the natural enemy of international order as envisaged in the Charter. It is also an expensive, and potentially disastrous, anachronism. Patriotism, national pride or ideological conviction can and must take new and more creative forms than the old concepts of political domination or material power. This is a challenge to statesmanship and political genius in all regions of the world. The basic ideas and machinery are all there -- they await the national policies and actions which will put life and strength into them.

"Such policies will not, in the beginning, be easy for Governments, especially powerful ones, to adopt. The larger interests of world peace, the will or opinion of the majority of nations or the accommodation of national prestige to international order will initially often prove hard to accept. But some Governments have already found such acceptance possible without suffering disaster, and their example should encourage others. In this sphere, the smaller nations can play a vital role by increasing contacts among themselves, by co-ordinating their international policies and by uniting their voices in a strong and unmistakable call for peace, understanding and human betterment.

"Even if the question of power politics were solved, we have to face other formidable problems, not the least of which is the growing gap between the developed and less developed countries, between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, in the world. This is, indeed, the most crucial and the most challenging long-term struggle of this century. For just as the internal stability of the advanced nations has proved to rest on narrowing

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the gap between rich and poor, so will the future stability of the relations between nations and of peace itself. It has been stressed many times that there is an irrefutable relationship between internal upheavals and economic backwardness, a thought which is all the more disturbing in the light of the fact that the gap between the rich and the poor nations is widening, not narrowing.

"Yet in this realm too, where the problems and the dangers of under-development have never been more clearly delineated and understood than they are today, we find the same lag as I have mentioned earlier between ideals and actions. The experience so far of the Development Decade, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly for the 1960's and designed to set the sights for international action and achievement in economic and social progress, provides all the evidence necessary in this respect.

"One of the basic goals of the Development Decade was -- and still remains -- the attainment during the decade of a minimum annual growth rate of 5 per cent in the gross income of the developing countries. This was considered at the outset, and certainly remains, a rather modest target, especially if account is taken of the rate of population growth in the developing countries.

"Unless the population rate slows down, it has been estimated that it would take some 80 years at an annual rate of growth of 5 per cent for the developing countries to reach the current average per capita income level of Western Europe and approximately 40 years more for them to reach that of the United States today. For the least advanced countries, accounting for one-half of the population of the developing areas, and therefore one-sixth of the world population as a whole, the period required to reach the present Western European level would be of the dismaying order of 200 years.

"The 5 per cent target set for the Development Decade must therefore be considered as an acceptable minimum only for some short transitional period during which there must be created the internal and international conditions required for a more accelerated development. The stark fact is that, with half of the Development Decade already passed, only a few of the developing countries have reached or even neared this minimum target.

"It is, of course, clear that the primary responsibility and effort to speed up their economic development should and must fall on the shoulders of the developing countries themselves. In most cases, these efforts will have

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to entail profound and complex changes in the national economic structure, and therefore in the structure of society. In many cases they will demand a radical approach to the mobilization of internal resources. We know that some countries have made a determined start in this respect and, indeed, that by and large the developing countries have succeeded during the first half of the Development Decade in increasing their own contribution to their development. There is good reason to believe that they will manage to improve still further the mobilization of their internal resources during the second half of the Decade.

"We also know now that in many cases the main limitations are not domestic factors, but rather the insufficiency of external resources. Only a few weeks ago, at the last session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, I felt bound to draw special attention to the present crisis in international aid, and the Council's discussion of development financing brought further into the limelight the truly paradoxical state of affairs which presently exists.

"On the one hand, as is shown by the last annual report of the World Bank, it cannot any longer be contended that the amount of international assistance that can be effectively used by the developing countries is limited by a lack of absorptive capacity on their part. On the contrary, the President of the Bank has stated that these countries could make productive use of no less than an additional three to four billion dollars annually for development over the next few years. I must mention in passing that this inflow would do no more than achieve the level of international capital aid on which the modest goal of the Development Decade was based.

"The other side of the paradox is the fact that the availability of such investment capital has levelled off to the point of stagnation. While national income has risen greatly in the developed parts of the world in recent years, the financial assistance they have made available to developing countries has not increased accordingly. The assistance they are now giving represents less than 0.7 per cent of the aggregate national income of the developed countries, as compared with almost 0.9 per cent in 1961 at the beginning of the Development Decade. The net result is that we are getting further from, instead of closer to, fulfilling the modest hopes of the Development Decade.

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"The paradox becomes all the greater when we see that in some major donor countries, commitments are being stabilized or indeed reduced, and in others, the terms of assistance are being hardened instead of eased. The developed countries, moreover, have not shown themselves willing to modify significantly their trade policies in order to enable the developing countries to expand their foreign exchange earnings through increased trade.

"If this situation continues, it can only, and to an ever-growing extent, act as a brake on the progress of the developing countries. These countries may struggle to narrow further their savings gap but, in present circumstances, no amount of effort will enable them in isolation to close the foreign exchange gap -- a gap made wider by their growing burden of indebtedness, to which they are now devoting more than one-tenth of their foreign exchange earnings, and a gap which can only be closed or narrowed if the developed countries are prepared to act with greater vision in the spheres of both aid and trade.

"One of the effects of this situation is to curtail seriously the developing nations' capacity to import all of the capital goods and other essential products which they do not or cannot yet produce themselves but without which rapid and sound economic growth is unlikely. If present trade patterns and trends remain unchanged, it is highly improbable that the traditional exports of the developing countries -- foodstuffs and raw materials -- will keep pace with their import needs.

"Their situation is worsened by the fact that some developed countries are attempting to become increasingly self-sufficient with respect to their foodstuff requirements, not only through technological advances, but also by heavily subsidizing their internal agricultural production and adopting protective policies. This obviously affects the capacity of the developing countries to export their traditional produce -- and this at a time when their own domestic agricultural production is not always keeping pace with population growth, thereby forcing them in turn to import foodstuffs. I have been told that Latin America confronts a serious problem in this regard, and that the countries of this region have been importing several hundred million dollars worth of foodstuffs a year.

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"When we think of the trade gap and the development problems facing the two-thirds of humanity living in the developing world, not so much in terms of statistics or dollars and cents, as in terms, for example, of machinery that is required to maintain and expand industrial and agricultural production and to increase income, as well as to provide opportunities for work for the dangerously high number of unemployed, and when we think of the quantity of essential foodstuffs needed to prevent actual hunger to millions of peoples, we might see that these problems take on potentially explosive dimensions that go far beyond their purely economic and financial aspects.

"In the same light, we must regard the quantitative targets proclaimed in the Development Decade not simply as goals to be reached and surpassed by some means and at some time, but as meters indicating the lowest safety points in the scale of tensions and conflicts which, beyond those points, might erupt and spread and cause danger for the whole world. The international community must ask itself whether it can afford to go on acting like a bomb-disposal team which knows the danger, hears the ticking of the bomb, but does nothing except to look on with mounting anxiety while others shake and jostle the dangerous explosive.

"It is therefore not surprising that, whatever differences may exist among them, the developing countries are tending to join ranks at the United Nations in the common hope that within the Organization the highly industrialized Powers, which are also the militarily strong Powers, will support, not weaken, the key peace-keeping and peace-building mission of the Organization.

"It is also not surprising that the developing world attaches so much importance not only to existing United Nations machinery, however imperfect it may be, but also to the establishment of new specialized bodies such as the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development and the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development.

"To create new institutions, however, is not enough: their success, like that of the United Nations Development Programme and the other instruments of development which already exist, must depend firstly on the vision, -- and, from that, the practical financial support -- of the industrialized countries, and, secondly, on the determination of the developing countries to help themselves.

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"I am sure I need not describe or recall to you the numerous activities of the growing machinery for development under the auspices of the United Nations, for Chile has played a prominent role in its construction and evolution, particularly in the case of the Economic Commission for Latin America. Indeed, Chile took the initiative that led to the creation of ECIA some eighteen years ago, and since its establishment, Chile has been its main base of operation. The roots of international co-operation are now deeply embedded not only in this country but throughout the region of Latin America. Nevertheless, there are some salient aspects of the economic situation of Latin America on which I should like to dwell briefly, not only because of their intrinsic importance but because of their interest to the wider international community.

"Indeed, when viewed from the international angle, the problems and vicissitudes of Latin America's economic and social development are of particular interest, inasmuch as many of the obstacles to this region's rapid and steady growth are found in other developing areas, which can profit by Latin America's experience. Admittedly, Latin America has a better chance than other regions of achieving its objectives, since its income levels, economic structure and technical capacity are such as to facilitate subsequent development; it is in a privileged position as regards its wealth of natural resources and the ratio between these and its population; and, lastly, it is composed of a group of nations that have long enjoyed independence and are united by a common tradition.

"The fact that, in spite of these circumstances, Latin America is finding it so hard to consolidate satisfactory growth rates is a source of international concern. The average annual increase in the per capita gross product during the present decade has so far failed to reach 2 per cent; this is a lower rate than was recorded in the 'fifties, and falls short of the target proposed for the United Nations Development Decade programme to which I referred earlier. Thus it is that the 230 million inhabitants of Latin America, who represent a little over 7 per cent of the population of the world, have not managed to raise their share in world income above approximately 5 per cent, or to narrow the gap between them and the industrialized nations.

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"Many of the difficulties encountered are unquestionably home-made, and must be obviated by the Latin American countries themselves. But other no less serious problems stem from Latin America's economic relations with the rest of the world, and their solution must be sought in an effective and continuing policy of international understanding and co-operation. In this context, it is worth recalling that few regions were harder hit than Latin America by the world depression of the early 'thirties.

"More recently, the steady decline of its share in world trade has become another cause of concern. It has cost Latin America an arduous struggle to overcome these adverse circumstances and set out to establish, in far from favourable conditions, an industrial sector capable of counterbalancing the lack of dynamic growth in foreign trade. The task that lies ahead is that of organizing the industrialization process on a regional footing, in order to overcome the limitations imposed by the relatively small size of the individual country markets and to reach higher standards of productivity and efficiency, so that Latin America may also take an active part in world trade in manufactured goods.

"This process raises new problems which have loomed particularly large in Latin America. The application of modern science and technology to the improvement of health conditions has already helped to push up the region's rate of population growth to one of the highest in the world. Moreover, the broad masses of the population are becoming awakened to the better life that contemporary technology can bring them, and their pressure for a share in that better life is becoming more insistent. Up-to-date techniques have made good headway in some sectors of the economy, but in others, largely because of obsolescent institutional structures and social values, they have not been satisfactorily absorbed and there are wide disparities among the people in skills and productivity. The combined effects of several of these factors have worsened an already serious employment problem, have encouraged the towns to grow out of proportion in many cases to the expansion of genuinely productive urban economic activities, and are relegating increasingly large sectors of the population to marginal living standards.

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"The complexity and gravity of these problems make it all the more gratifying that the Latin American countries have fully realized that economic and social development planning is now an essential requisite if they are to improve their chances of success in their present endeavours. I am glad of the help which, in these and other matters of fundamental importance, the United Nations has been able to bring to Latin America, especially through the work of ECLA in helping to investigate the root causes of the problems and to determine the best ways of tackling them; in defining a comprehensive and consistent development policy; in providing technical assistance and advice; and in foreseeing the establishment of institutions capable of extending and broadening that assistance.

"Special mention must be made of what ECLA has done to encourage economic integration in Latin America, by providing not only the original stimulus but also technical co-operation on a continuing basis. From the outset, its activities have been linked with both the Central American Economic Integration Programme and the Latin American Free Trade Association. The present status of these instruments for integration, and the horizons they open up, suggest that the movements concerned are among the most vital contributions to the development of Latin America with which the United Nations has had the opportunity of allying itself. They also point to directions which other developing regions will need to consider following. Modern mass production techniques necessitate very broad markets; at the same time, scientific and technical advances entail investment so heavy that only major economic and political units can afford it.

"The developing countries are thus faced with a choice between dropping out of the march of progress and resigning themselves to the use of old-fashioned techniques that cannot meet their requirements, or joining forces in a policy of concerted action, notably in the form of common markets. There is no question of fomenting antagonisms between rival trade groupings; the aim is to pool the resources of all the countries of the region, and achieve such efficiency as will enable it to attain competitive standards of productivity and ensure that its own economy complements the economies of other regions.

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"The obstacles and stumbling blocks obstructing the road to regional integration are all too familiar. Nevertheless, Latin America itself can point to the instructive examples afforded by the members of the Latin American Free Trade Association and by the Central American common market. In addition, the legislatures of several countries of the area not long ago established the Latin American Parliament which is inspired by the same ideal of regional integration. And Latin America will, I am confident, fully realize that not only to itself is the evolution of this process important; its impact on other regions will be exceptionally significant, since the Latin American integration movement, with its special problems and characteristics, is obviously much more closely related to the real possibilities of other developing countries than are the achievements of the great developed areas.

"I am certain that the United Nations family and, in particular, ECLA and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, will continue to give all possible support to the efforts which the Latin American countries themselves are making to achieve the progress and well-being of their peoples. The task of implementing the reforms which are necessary in Latin America, as well as in many other developing areas, places a heavy responsibility on the present generation, whose task it is to give a prompt and energetic response to the challenge of the stirring times in which they live, both stirring and rich in possibilities for the attainment of a better life for all humanity."

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

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Press Release SG/SM/554
27 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, gave a press conference last night at the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City. About 70 Mexican and foreign correspondents were present.

In an opening statement, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the Mexican Government and people for their warm hospitality which touched him profoundly.

Asked to announce his decision there and then, he replied that his first obligation was to the United Nations membership, particularly the members of the Security Council, and he would inform them on 1 September as previously announced.

The Secretary-General was asked what United Nations action could be taken to stop the Viet-Nam war from spreading? He answered that the vast majority of the States Members agreed that the United Nations, as presently constituted, could not contribute to a peaceful settlement in Viet-Nam.

He added that he had been involved, for the last three years acting in his personal capacity, in several efforts for a peaceful settlement. Those efforts had, so far, not been conclusive. U Thant then declared "I will continue with my endeavour for peace there".

The Secretary-General declined to comment on a statement attributed to Robert Kennedy, United States Senator, that the United States had neglected Latin America, but added that it was his impression that many leaders of Latin America were exerting their utmost to bring about closer ties in this great continent which had the advantage of a historical, cultural and linguistic affinity.

(more)

Asked how the United Nations could be strengthened to deal with conflicts such as Viet-Nam, the Secretary-General stated that the fault was not with the Charter but with the realities of the world situation. The United Nations was impotent in dealing with Viet-Nam because, of all the participants in the conflict, only the United States was a Member of the Organization, he added. The Secretary-General said further that machinery had been set up by the 1954 Geneva Conference to deal with this situation. Furthermore, some important Member States were opposed to the question of Viet-Nam being discussed in the United Nations.

Asked if he would favour a Mexican to succeed him as Secretary-General in case he decided not to make himself available for a second term, U Thant said this was a question for the Security Council to decide. He added that he had not yet informed the Council members of his decision, and it would not be proper for him to venture an opinion on the question.

He was asked whether Indonesia had given any official indication of an intention to return to the United Nations. He said there had been no official communication, although there had been indications that some of the leaders of Indonesia favoured the return of their country to the Organization. If the Indonesian Government decided to return, the entire membership would welcome the country back, he added.

On Viet-Nam, the Secretary-General said: "I come from South-East Asia. I know some of the leaders involved in the Viet-Nam conflict. As a Burmese, I know what it means to fight for independence. My assessment of the situation in Viet-Nam is different from that of the others. This conflict should be related to the longing of the Vietnamese people for independence without any interference from outside. But when people struggle and suffer for a long time, extreme forces come to the surface and dominate the scene."

The Secretary-General, replying to other questions, denied that he was seeking Mexico's mediation in the Vietnamese conflict, and added that any mediation in the Vietnamese conflict at this stage would not be realistic.

Asked about his views regarding the admission of the People's Republic of China to the membership of the United Nations, the Secretary-General said: "I believe in the universality of the United Nations, and on this question there are two U Thants. Speaking personally, I believe that if the concept of universality was achieved, the United Nations would be in a much stronger position to settle problems such as Viet-Nam."

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Press Services
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United Nations, N.Y.

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

Press Release SG/T/119
30 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL DEDICATES NEW UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN SANTIAGO

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, dedicated the new United Nations Building in Santiago, Chile, yesterday (29 August) at 11 a.m. at a ceremony attended by about 1,500 guests.

Earlier, the Secretary-General called on Gabriel Valdés, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and had a 35-minute discussion of United Nations matters and problems of South-East Asia, including Viet-Nam.

The day's schedule also included a luncheon given in honour of U Thant by the President of Chile, Eduardo Frei; a dinner given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Secretary-General's honour; and other activities.

Dedication Ceremony

The dedication of the United Nations Building*, which will house the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, was attended by President Frei of Chile, Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as staff members of ECLA, the Institute, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme.

Foreign Minister Valdés was the first speaker and was followed by the Secretary-General, who officially dedicated the building. Other speakers were José Rabat, Mayor of Las Condes which is a district of Santiago; and José Antonio Mayobre, Executive Secretary of ECLA.

(For the text of the Secretary-General's statement, see press release SG/SM/551 issued on 29 August.)

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* A description of the new United Nations Building was given in press release ORG/664-ECLA/98, issued on 17 August.

Immediately after the ceremony, President Frei and the Secretary-General attended a reception given by Mr. Mayobre, Executive Secretary of ECLA. They then made impressions of their right hands in cement to be placed at the entrance of the new United Nations Building.

At 1 p.m. the Secretary-General attended the luncheon given by President Frei at the Presidential Palace (La Moneda). The guests also included Cabinet Ministers, Mayor Rabat, Mr. Mayobre, José Rolz-Bennett, United Nations Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, and Hernán Santa Cruz, Deputy Director-General of FAO.

The discussion between the Secretary-General and the President of Chile covered the international situation, including Viet-Nam.

Prior to a meeting with the United Nations staff in Santiago at the new building, the Secretary-General, accompanied by Raul Bazan of the Foreign Affairs Office, planted a tree just outside the premises.

At the meeting with the staff, the speakers were: Rosa Doren, Chairman of the Staff Committee; Luis Ramirez Boettner, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme; Clive Mitchell of FAO; and the Secretary-General.

Statement to Staff

In his statement to the staff, the Secretary-General stated that the new building was the third one owned by the United Nations. He discussed the importance of the United Nations economic activities and said the tremendous achievements in this regard were not always properly assessed. He elaborated on the functions of the United Nations in peace building and maintaining peace and its harmonizing functions in attempting to find a bridge between conflicting parties. He spoke of how difficult the task was, especially with the high tensions that prevailed now. These were caused by the different political ideologies, and the disparity in economic conditions, which were legacies of colonization and the colour war, he declared. In this context, he referred to the tragic war in South-East Asia, with its mounting casualties and destruction, and he added that there is no peace in this world because there is no peace in the minds of men.

(more)

The Secretary-General warned that if this trend continued, one might face a World War III. All the magnificent achievements of man were in danger of annihilation in the shadow of the hydrogen bomb. He pleaded for tolerance and the exercise of a philosophy of "live and let live" and thought for humanity as a whole.

Concluding, the Secretary-General paid high tribute to the contribution of Chile to the United Nations and thanked the people and Government for the very warm welcome accorded to him and his party.

Following his statement, the Secretary-General attended a reception for all members of the staff and spent half an hour meeting and talking with them.

Last evening, the Secretary-General attended a dinner in his honour given by the Foreign Minister.

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

Press Release SG/SM/551
29 August 1966

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE DEDICATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 29 AUGUST 1966

"There are two particular reasons -- among many others -- why the event at which we are present today is important, and a source of satisfaction to me. The dedication of the United Nations building*, erected here against the impressive setting of the Andean cordillera -- thanks to the unfailing hospitality of the Government of Chile and to its generosity in donating this site -- represents not only the fulfilment of the desire of the Latin American Governments, but also the provision of permanent and appropriate quarters for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, both of which have been working for the development of Latin America for many years.

"The Economic Commission for Latin America -- ECLA -- was established in this city of Santiago in 1948. Like the other regional economic commissions set up by the United Nations before and afterwards, ECLA has become an effective instrument for the attack on under-development, and has helped and advised the Governments of the region in what must essentially be their own efforts to solve their problems in that field. This, as you all know, has been one of the basic objectives pursued by the United Nations throughout the world, and I am firmly convinced that its attainment will represent a lasting and fundamental contribution to the cause of international peace.

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* A background release on the new building was issued on 17 August as press release ORG/664-ECLA/98.

"In the course of nearly two decades, ECLA has brought resolution, imagination and boldness to bear upon the problems of economic and social development. It has kept the situation in this region under systematic and continuous study, diagnosing the most deep-rooted of the ills that impede the development of the Latin American countries and stunt their economic growth, and it has formulated, at the appropriate time, programming techniques which are being used in a substantial and effective way in helping to overcome those obstacles. These techniques have been adopted throughout the continent.

"Besides embarking upon intensive activities of training in development, ECLA has begun to introduce, through advisory assistance to Governments, the most up-to-date methods of planning. In addition, recognizing that economic integration is one of the roads to the full development of Latin America, it began at a very early stage to promote and guide, in the northern and southern zones of the region, movements in that direction which should culminate at a future date in the formation of a vast Latin American common market.

"Yet, in spite of the great deal that has been achieved in these respects, and although many goals still lie ahead, the most vital feature of the work of ECLA among the Latin American Governments has been, in my opinion, the fact that it has imbued them all with a larger awareness of their own needs and with the conviction that a systematic attempt at economic and social development is the essential means for the attainment of the higher levels of living and of the stability, security and peace to which they aspire.

"This awareness of Latin America's needs, especially for technical training, research and advisory assistance in planning, took such firm root among the members of ECLA that their requests soon began to multiply out of all proportion to the resources upon which the Commission could draw to meet them. A second international institution, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, was accordingly established under the auspices of ECLA in 1962, with the support of the United Nations Special Fund, and in the four years of its existence it has given such proof of its usefulness in this field that the Member Governments have just decided unanimously to extend its term of operation.

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"Both institutions will be housed in the building we are inaugurating today. To you, President Frei, and through you to the noble people of Chile, I would once again extend the heartfelt thanks of the United Nations for the donation of these beautiful grounds and the invaluable material and moral support that the Government of your country has at all times given to this project. Your presence here not only reaffirms the support we continue to receive from your Government but confirms, also, the unconditional backing that the United Nations has traditionally received ever since its foundation, from the Government and people of Chile. Moreover, it provides me with an opportunity to thank you as well for the personal contribution you made together with a group of other distinguished Latin American personalities in the preparation, some ten years ago, of one of the most important reports and set of proposals ever presented by ECLA. Many of the key ideas contained therein are well under way to becoming concrete realities in this region.

"The evolution of several of these ideas that ECLA has steadfastly advocated, could be traced back to the days prior to 1948, when the then Ambassador of Chile to the United States, H.E. Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz took the initiative in formally proposing the creation of ECLA and, together with the other Latin American Governments represented in the Economic and Social Council, succeeded in achieving its approval.

"Since then, of course, many people -- some no longer directly associated with ECLA -- have greatly contributed to the advancement of the activities of the Commission and its secretariat. But there are two names that cannot be left out of any listing that might be attempted of all those who have helped to shape the intellectual framework of this fertile breeding ground of international co-operation which will be housed in the building we are dedicating today. The United Nations owes a debt of profound gratitude to Dr. Raúl Prebisch who, prior to his appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, for 13 years was Executive Secretary of ECLA. Under his expert guidance and dynamic leadership, ECLA soon began to articulate these as well as other completely new ideas, shaping them into practical tools and programmes for action by Governments and by the United Nations. The goals he set and the spirit he instilled in ECLA's

(more)

activities has been most ably maintained and pursued by Dr. José Antonio Mayobre, the present Executive Secretary, whose skill and talents are reflected not only in the growing accomplishments of ECLA but also in the efficient way he has assisted the United Nations as my Personal Representative in the Dominican Republic.

"A tribute is also due to all past and present members of the staffs of ECLA and the Institute for their valuable contribution to the work of these regional institutions.

"Since the creation of ECLA and the establishment of the Institute, there has been a steady influx of other agencies of the United Nations family into Santiago, and the capital of Chile has become one of the busiest centres of international society -- indeed, a workshop where plans and programmes that can help bring about the economic and social development of the region are hammered out and put into shape.

"In extending our thanks to the Governments of the States that have contributed to the furnishing and decoration of the building and to the improvement of its facilities -- and not least to the membership of the United Nations as a whole for their financial support -- I would add my sincerest wishes that, within the walls of this building, ECLA and the Institute, by their own unremitting endeavours and in co-operation with the Governments, may tackle the great problems of the Latin American peoples with inspiration and success, and may bring into existence a Latin America whose prosperity, well-being and strength will make this region one of the pillars of world peace."

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

Press Release SG/T/118
29 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, and his party arrived in Santiago, Chile, at 3:50 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

In a brief ceremony, the Secretary-General reviewed a military guard of honour. He was greeted by Gabriel Valdés, Minister of Foreign Affairs; José Antonio Mayobre, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA); Hernán Santa Cruz, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); Eduardo Cisternas, Chef de Cabinet at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Luis Ramírez Boetner, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Chile; and other Chilean and United Nations officials.

Last night the Secretary-General attended a private dinner given in his honour by Mr. Mayobre.

The Secretary-General's programme of activities for the day is as follows:

At 10 a.m., he calls on Mr. Valdés, the Minister of Foreign Affairs; at 11 a.m., he dedicates the new ECLA building; at 1 p.m., he attends luncheon given in his honour by the President of Chile, Eduardo Frei; at 4:30 p.m., he meets with the staff members of ECLA and other United Nations organizations at the new premises; at 9 p.m., he attends a dinner given in his honour by the Chilean Foreign Minister.

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Press Release SG/T/117
29 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES LATIN AMERICAN VISIT

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, had an overnight stop in Panama and 45-minute breaks respectively in Lima, Peru, and in Quito, Ecuador, on his way by air from Mexico City to Santiago, Chile.

Stopover in Panama

U Thant and his party arrived in Panama at 1:20 p.m. on Saturday, 27 August. He was met at the airport by Fernando Eleta, Minister for External Relations; Aquilino Boyd, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations; Juvenal Castrellón, Director of International Organizations; Camilo Levy, Director of Protocol; Roberto Heurtematte, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Carlos Araya Borge, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Panama.

In a brief statement, the Secretary-General thanked the Panamanian Government for its invitation to visit Panama. He said he was looking forward to meeting the President of Panama, Mareo Amelio Robles, and other Panamanian leaders.

The Secretary-General toured the Panama Canal at 4:30 p.m., and was guest of honour at a private dinner given in the evening by the Panamanian President.

Stopover in Ecuador

The Secretary-General and his party left Panama on Sunday, 28 August, at 6:40 a.m. and arrived in Quito, Ecuador, at 8:10 a.m. local time. He was received by Jorge Salvador Lara, Minister for External Relations; Galo Plaza, former President of Ecuador; Leopoldo Benitez, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations; and other Ecuadorian officials and United Nations representatives.

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Stopover in Peru

The Secretary-General and his party left Quito at 8:55 a.m., local time, and arrived in Lima, Peru at 10:45 a.m.

He was received by Miguel Dammert Muelle, Minister of Labour; Victor Andrés Bealaúnde, former President of the United Nations General Assembly; Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Manuel Félix Maurtua, Director of International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Jorge Velando Ugarteche, Deputy Director of Protocol; and other Peruvian officials and United Nations representatives.

In a brief statement to the press at the end of his 45-minute stopover, the Secretary-General said that, although his stay was brief, he had enjoyed visiting Peru, a country of ancient culture and the site of the first University of the hemisphere.

With regard to Viet-Nam, he said that there was the danger of a major war if the present escalation continued. In reply to a question as to what he thought were the major threats to peace, he replied that they were, in his view, poverty, disease, ignorance and injustice. Asked about his views regarding the usefulness of the United Nations, he recounted the major political achievements of the Organization.

The Secretary-General and his party left Lima at 11:15 a.m. for Santiago, Chile.

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Press Release SG/T/116
27 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL LEAVES MEXICO TO CONTINUE HIS LATIN AMERICAN VISIT

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, and his party left Mexico City at 9 a.m. local time today. In an airport farewell ceremony, U Thant was accorded a twenty-one-gun salute and a military guard of honour.

At the airport to see the Secretary-General off, were Antonio Carrillo Flores, Secretary for External Affairs, Alfonso Garcia Robles, Under-Secretary for External Affairs, José Muñoz Zapata, Director of Protocol, Francisco Cuevas Cancino, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and other Mexican officials. Miguel Albornoz, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Mexico, was also present.

Mr. Carrillo Flores thanked the Secretary-General for the visit. He expressed the best wishes for U Thant's personal well-being, in his own name as well as that of the Government of Mexico.

In a brief statement to the press, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of Mexico for their cordial and warm hospitality. He wished the Mexican people success, he added. He said he had a firm confidence in Mexico's future, because of the country's achievement in economic planning and its utilization of the aid which was available under the international co-operation fostered by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

Mr. Carrillo Flores presented to the Secretary-General a Mexican stamp commemorating the visit. As U Thant and his party boarded the plane, the military band played Mexico's traditional farewell song "Las Golondrinas".

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Press Release SG/T/115
27 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE IN MEXICO

(The following was received from the United Nations Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, visited yesterday morning the Teotihuacan archeological site outside Mexico City, and spent an hour looking at the pyramids and other historic monuments.

While the Secretary-General was at the site, a group of about 100 school boys and girls cheered him repeatedly. U Thant, looking relaxed, spent a few moments chatting with them.

Later, at 12:30 noon, the Secretary-General called on the President of Mexico, Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, at the Presidential Palace. With the President were Antonio Carrillo Flores, Secretary for External Affairs, Francisco Cuevas Cancino, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations. The Secretary-General was accompanied by José Rolz-Bennett, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, and Miguel Albornoz, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mexico.

At the end of the talks the Secretary-General said to the press that he had a useful exchange of views with the President on the international situation, including Viet-Nam. They also discussed economic matters, disarmament which covered non-proliferation of nuclear arms and complete banning of nuclear tests.

The Secretary-General added "President Díaz Ordaz referred to my work for the United Nations and wished me success in my task." The Secretary-General said that the talks were conducted in an extremely friendly and frank atmosphere.

Mr. Carrillo Flores informed the correspondents that the President expressed confidence in U Thant. Mexico, he added, felt that U Thant should continue as Secretary-General. //

The Secretary-General, afterwards, attended a private luncheon at the home of Mr. Albornoz.

After lunch, the Secretary-General visited Basilica de Guadalupe (the shrine to the virgin of Guadalupe, the patroness of Mexico).

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Press Release SG/1692
26 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMBODIA AND THAILAND
ARRIVES IN BANGKOK

(The following was received from a United Nations Information Officer in Bangkok.)

Herbert de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cambodia and Thailand, arrived in Bangkok yesterday.

He was met at the airport by Lieutenant General Krianghakdi Chamanan, Deputy Chief of Staff, who is in charge of arrangements for Mr. de Ribbing. Others at the airport to meet him were U Nyun, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Interior of Thailand.

In an airport interview, Mr. de Ribbing said he had come to the region "completely uncommitted and with fresh eyes". He realized great difficulties existed on both sides but he was optimistic by nature, and was hopeful that a "good solution" could be achieved.

He would consult with the authorities in Thailand and Cambodia and would then report to the Secretary-General. A decision would then be taken about arrangements for the mission, including its staffing. The stationing of observers was one of the questions he would discuss with the two Governments.

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Press Release SG/SM/553
26 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER OF TURKEY

Following is the text of a cablegram received today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from Ihsar Sabri Caglayangil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, in reply to the Secretary-General's message of condolence dated 20 August.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Turkey, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the kind sentiments expressed by Your Excellency on the sad occasion of the earthquake that struck Turkey. I wish also to thank Your Excellency for the generous offer of assistance on the part of the United Nations."

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Press Release SG/T/114
26 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL CONFERS WITH MEXICAN SECRETARY
FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(The following was received from the Information Officer with the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, continued his official visit in Mexico City yesterday morning, and had talks with Antonio Carrillo Flores, Secretary for External Relations, which lasted about one and a half hours. They discussed the international situation, including Viet-Nam. Also attending the meeting were Alfonso García Robles, Under-Secretary for External Relations, Jorge Castaneda, Chief of the United Nations Department of the Ministry of External Relations, Francisco Cuevas Cancino, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, José Rolz-Bennett, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, and Miguel Albornoz, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Mexico.

At noon yesterday, the Secretary-General called on Ernesto Uruchurtu, Mayor of Mexico City at City Hall.

The Mayor gave the Secretary-General a scroll declaring that U Thant was a distinguished visitor and spoke warmly of his continuous efforts for world peace.

Responding, the Secretary-General thanked the Mayor and the people of Mexico for their very warm and friendly reception.

At 1 p.m. yesterday, the Secretary-General visited the United Nations offices in Mexico City. Addressing members of the staff, he praised their dedication to the ideals of the United Nations and their close co-operation. He spent one hour talking to various officials and familiarizing himself with their work.

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At 4 p.m. the Secretary-General attended a luncheon given in his honour by the Secretary for External Affairs at the Hotel Del Prado. One hundred and thirteen guests attended, including all members of the Cabinet and all heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Mexico. Mr. Carrillo Flores, in a comprehensive address, discussed the role of the United Nations in the political and economic fields and paid tribute to U Thant's efforts during the Cuban crisis in 1962 and his untiring endeavours to avoid escalation of the war in Viet-Nam and the re-establishment of peace there.

Concluding, the Secretary said: "We are convinced that the humanity of which we are a part and which you serve will learn how to change the balance of terror, of which you spoke not long ago, into a noble identity of efforts guided by fraternity and hope in the final triumph of liberty and justice."

Responding, the Secretary-General expressed deep gratification at the kind words addressed to him by the Secretary for External Affairs and discussed the harmonizing functions of the United Nations in the spirit of the Charter. He referred to the international climate which was fraught with serious and explosive prospects and said that all the magnificent achievements of mankind were threatened by the shadow of the hydrogen bomb. He called for the elimination of fear and suspicion, for the exercise of tolerance and a philosophy of "live and let live", for the absolute necessity that all political ideologies live and work together, and emphasized the need for co-existence.

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Press Release SG/T/113
25 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN MEXICO CITY

(The following was received from the United Nations Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

Secretary-General U Thant and his party arrived in Mexico at 9:45 local time last night.

U Thant was accorded a twenty-one-gun salute and a military guard of honour in an airport welcoming ceremony. He was greeted, on arrival, by Antonio Carrillo Flores, Secretary for External Affairs, Alfonso García Robles, Under-Secretary for External Affairs, José Muñoz Zapata, Director of Protocol, Francisco Cuevas Cancino, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, Miguel Albornoz, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mexico, and other Mexican and United Nations officials.

In brief remarks to correspondants at the airport, the Secretary-General expressed his happiness at touching Mexican soil for the first time. He paid warm tribute to Mexico's ideals for peace and its contribution to the economic and political activities of the United Nations. He also praised Mexican diplomats who had represented their country with distinction at the United Nations.

Today, Thursday, the Secretary-General will lay a wreath at the Independence Monument at 10 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., he will meet with the External Affairs Secretary, Mr. Carrillo Flores. At noon, he will pay a courtesy call on the Mayor of Mexico City. At 1:00 p.m., he will visit the United Nations offices and will meet members of the staff. At 2:00 p.m., the Secretary-General will be the guest of honour at a luncheon given by Mr. Carrillo Flores. At 4:30, he will visit the National Museum of Anthropology and History.

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Press Release SG/C/39
GA/3186
24 August 1966

ISRAEL TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,000 TO THE TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has been informed by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations that the Government of Israel has decided to make a contribution of \$1,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965.

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Press Release SG/SM/552
23 August 1966

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY CONCERNING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Following is the text of a letter, dated 22 August, sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, Orhan Eralp:

"You have no doubt received a copy of the cable I have sent to His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Turkey expressing my deepest sympathy over the tragic loss of human lives and property resulting from the recent earthquake.

"In accordance with the terms of General Assembly Resolution 2034 (XX) I am prepared to make available to the Government of Turkey emergency assistance, up to the amount of \$10,000, depending upon my receiving the recommendations of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Ankara after consulting with your Government. I am already in contact with the specialized agencies of the United Nations with a view to co-ordinating their efforts in assisting the Government of Turkey in this matter."

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Press Release SG/SM/549
ECAFE/379
L/1688

22 August 1966

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Following is the text of a statement delivered by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at a ceremony this afternoon marking the entry into force of the Agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank:

"The establishment of the Asian Development Bank is an outstanding example of co-operation between the developing and developed countries within the framework of the United Nations Development Decade.

"By 31 January 1966, only two years after the idea of the Bank was conceived at the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation, 31 countries, 19 from the ECAFE region and 12 from the outside, had signed the Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank.

"The Bank comes into existence when the Agreement is ratified or accepted by 15 countries, at least ten of which must be Asian States. Today, that number has been reached, with my receipt of the instrument of ratification of Canada. Previously I have received instruments of ratification from: Afghanistan, Belgium, Denmark, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United States of America, Western Samoa.

"In addition, I have received the instrument of ratification of Australia, which contains certain reservations which have to be considered in the first instance by the Governors of the Bank before I may accept the instrument in deposit.

"The Asian Development Bank, having a share capital of one billion United States dollars, with \$650 million contributed by the countries of the ECAFE region, will be able to mobilize additional resources within the region and to attract additional funds from outside the region to finance development projects in the region. It was agreed by the participating countries that

(more)

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

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Press Release SG/SM/548
22 August 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TURKEY
CONCERNING EARTHQUAKE IN ASIA MINOR

Following is the text of a cablegram dated Saturday, 20 August, sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey:

"May I express to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of Turkey my profound sorrow over the tragic loss of human lives and property caused by the earthquake in Asia Minor.

"I have instructed the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Turkey immediately to contact the competent authorities dealing with relief work to determine the best way in which the United Nations can aid your Government in this emergency."

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

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

Press Release SG/C/38
19 August 1966

KENYA CONTRIBUTES \$2,000 TO TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH AFRICANS

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has received a cheque for \$2,000 representing the contribution of the Government of Kenya to the United Nations Education and Training Programme for South Africans, established in pursuance of operative paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution S/5773 of 18 June 1964.

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UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/T/112
17 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT MEXICO AND CHILE

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, will dedicate the new United Nations building in Santiago de Chile on 29 August, and on this occasion he will pay an official visit to Chile. On his way to Santiago, the Secretary-General will also pay an official visit to Mexico.

U Thant will be accompanied by José Rolz-Bennett, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs; Ramses Nassif, Information Officer, and Donald Thomas, Personal Administrative Assistant.

The Secretary-General and his party will leave New York by air for Mexico City on Wednesday, 24 August. They will remain in the Mexican capital until Saturday, 27 August, when they will proceed to Santiago, staying overnight in Panama, and continuing to Chile on 28 August. Their stay in Chile will be until Wednesday, 31 August, when they are to return to New York.

During his stay in Mexico City, the Secretary-General will confer with the President of Mexico, Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, and with the Secretary of External Relations, Antonio Carrillo Flores. He also plans to meet the Mexican Press and to visit the United Nations offices in Mexico City.

In Santiago, the Secretary-General will confer with the President of Chile, Eduardo Frei, and with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gabriel Valdés.

The Secretary-General will dedicate the new United Nations building in Santiago at a ceremony to be held at 11 a.m. on 29 August. This building will house the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. The Secretary-General will hold consultations with the Executive Secretary of ECLA, José Antonio Mayobre, and also plans to meet the Chilean Press and to call on the Presidents of the Supreme Court, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Chile.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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United Nations, N.Y.

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

Press Release SG/A/35
BIO/439
16 August 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS AMBASSADOR HERBERT DE RIBBING
AS HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMBODIA, THAILAND

In consultation with the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand, the Secretary-General, U Thant, has designated Ambassador Herbert de Ribbing as his Special Representative in the area. Ambassador de Ribbing will examine with the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand the situation prevailing between them, endeavour to find ways and means of reducing tension in the area and explore the possibilities of resolving whatever problems may exist between them.

The duration of the assignment of the Secretary-General's Special Representative will be initially for six months. He will be expected to move from one country to the other as necessary.

Ambassador de Ribbing is expected to arrive in New York later this week and to proceed to the area, after discussions in New York with the Secretary-General and with the Permanent Representative of Cambodia and the Chargé d'affaires of Thailand.

Ambassador de Ribbing was born in Eksjo, Sweden, on 8 July 1897. He received a degree in Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics in 1918, and a degree in Law at Uppsala University in 1921.

He entered the Swedish Foreign Service in 1922, having served at the Swedish Embassies in Paris, London and Helsinki from 1923 to 1929. He also served at the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm in 1924 and 1929 and was appointed Head of Department in the Economic Division of the Ministry in 1934.

He was appointed Counsellor to the Swedish Embassies in Paris in 1938, and in Washington in 1942. In October 1943, he became Ambassador extraordinary to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. He was appointed Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in April 1949 and Ambassador to Madrid in February 1958.

(more)

16 August 1966

While he was serving as Swedish Ambassador to Spain, Mr. de Ribbing was appointed Personal Representative of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in August 1960 in order to consider the position of refugees from the Buraimi Oasis. The so-called "Buraimi Question" involved the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. Mr. de Ribbing continued to be the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, U Thant, on this question. In May 1963, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. de Ribbing as his Special Representative in connexion with the question of Oman.

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UNITED NATIONS

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

Press Release SG/A/34
12 August 1966

SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has appointed John A. Olver of the United States as Secretary of the International Civil Service Advisory Board (ICSAB) with effect from 1 September 1966. The appointment was made with the approval of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), of which the Secretary-General is Chairman, and which consists of the Executive Heads of the agencies in the United Nations family of organizations.

The Board was created in 1948 on the basis of a request from the first session of the General Assembly. Its terms of reference and its functions were widened and strengthened by the General Assembly in 1963. They are essentially to advise the organizations of the United Nations system on various aspects of personnel administration and to foster the development of co-ordination in the organizations following the United Nations common system, with particular reference to the classification of posts, the salaries and allowances of internationally recruited staff, on the methods and criteria for establishing the conditions of service of locally recruited staff, on divergencies in the application of the common system and on any other matter which may be referred to it by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination or by individual agencies.

The eleven members of the Board, who represent various regions and cultures, are appointed in their personal capacities. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar of India is Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Olver holds the degree of Master of Science in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. He joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1946 after service with the United States Army in World War II.

(more)

Press Release SG/A/34
12 August 1966

In his new assignment, Mr. Olver succeeds Henri Ernest Raymond of Switzerland, who is retiring from the international civil service after a long career with various organizations, including the League of Nations, the International Red Cross, and the International Labour Office. He became the first full-time Secretary of the Board in 1964.

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Press Release SG/SM/547
CYP/407

12 August 1966

TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 10 August, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations, Jean Nguza, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

Text of Letter in French

"J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la République Démocratique du Congo a décidé, à titre de contribution volontaire, de verser une somme de 10.000 dollars (dix mille) pour la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre.

"Les démarches sont actuellement entreprises afin de mettre cette somme à la disposition du Secrétariat Général des Nations Unies.

"Malgré les difficultés économiques dans lesquelles la République Démocratique du Congo se débat actuellement, elle a voulu néanmoins contribuer à l'oeuvre de paix entreprise par l'Organisation internationale."

Unofficial Translation

"I have the honour to inform you that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has decided to make a voluntary contribution of \$10,000 towards the expenses of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

"Arrangements are being made in order to put that amount at the disposal of the United Nations Secretariat.

"Despite the economic difficulties now besetting the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it has decided to make a contribution to peace-keeping work undertaken by the international Organization."

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UNITED NATIONS

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

Press Release SG/SM/546
CYP/406

11 August 1966

TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM AUSTRIA
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 5 August, received by the Secretary-General from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Charge d'Affaires a.i., W.R. Backes, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Austria has decided to make a voluntary contribution of US\$ 40,000.- towards meeting the costs of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus for the period covering 26 March 1966 to 26 June 1966. I should be grateful if this amount were like in the past compensated against the costs incurred by the Austrian Government in providing a medical and a police contingent for UNFICYP."

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UNITED NATIONS

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

Press Release SG/C/37
GA/3184

10 August 1966

MALAWI TO CONTRIBUTE \$50 TO TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has been informed by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations, that the Government of Malawi has decided to make a token contribution of \$50 to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965.

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

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Press Release SG/C/36
GA/3183
8 August 1966

SUDAN TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,500 TO TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has been informed by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan has pledged a contribution of \$1,500 to the United Nations Trust Fund established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965.

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

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

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Press Release SG/C/35
GA/3182
5 August 1966

POLAND TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,500 TO TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has been informed by the Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations that the Government of Poland has decided to make a contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX). The contribution will be equivalent to \$US 1,500, in the form of medicaments, blankets, clothes and ~~foot-wear~~, and will be placed at the disposal of the competent organizations.

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Press Release BIO/434*
4 August 1966

U THANT: SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

U Thant was unanimously appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly on 30 November 1962, on the recommendation of the Security Council. His term of office will continue until 3 November 1966.

U Thant had been serving as Acting Secretary-General since 3 November 1961, when he was appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to fill the unexpired term of the late Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld.

During his term of office as Acting Secretary-General, U Thant made official visits to Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland, France, Finland, Brazil, Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria and to the United States Government in Washington, D.C.

He also visited Cuba, at the invitation of Prime Minister Fidel Castro, in connexion with the crisis in the Caribbean (October 1962).

In February 1963, as Secretary-General, U Thant visited Jamaica. In May, he made official visits to Romania and Yugoslavia; and on the way back to New York, he stopped briefly in London for talks with Lord Home, then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom. In July, U Thant visited Hungary, Bulgaria and Italy; and while in Rome he had an audience with Pope Paul VI.

In early August, the Secretary-General was invited by the Governments of the Soviet Union, United States and United Kingdom to participate in the ceremony marking the signing of the test ban treaty in Moscow.

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* This replaces press release BIO/391 of 30 September 1965.

In February 1964, U Thant visited Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. He had planned to visit four other countries in West Africa, as well as Ethiopia, but was compelled to cancel this part of his trip because of the situation in Cyprus.

In May 1964, U Thant visited Ottawa at the invitation of the Government of Canada.

In July, the Secretary-General went to Cairo at the invitation of the Second Conference of Heads of African States to address the opening session. After Cairo, the Secretary-General visited Paris at the invitation of President de Gaulle; London at the invitation of the British Government; his native Burma at the invitation of its Government; Moscow at the invitation of the Government of the Soviet Union; and Washington at the invitation of President Johnson. In July 1965, after attending the summer session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, U Thant stopped in Paris for talks with the French Foreign Minister (8 July); and in London (9 July) for conversations with the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, and Prime Minister Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago, on matters of common interest.

On 7 September 1965, the Secretary-General left New York for urgent talks with the Governments of Pakistan and India, in Rawalpindi and New Delhi, respectively, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 209 of 4 September and 210 of 6 September 1965. U Thant returned from this mission on 16 September.

On 1 January 1966, the Secretary-General visited Trinidad and Tobago at the invitation of its Government. He returned to New York on 9 January.

On 25 April 1966, U Thant visited London at the invitation of the United Kingdom Government for talks with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Harold Wilson, and other leaders on questions of mutual interest. He also chaired meetings of ACC held at IMCO Headquarters in London.

On 29 April, he visited Paris and had talks on 30 April with President de Gaulle and Foreign Minister M. Couve de Murville on matters of common interest.

On 1 May, the Secretary-General left Paris for Strasbourg, where he had a private meeting with the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 2 May and addressed a session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council on the following day.

(more)

On 4 May, he addressed the Nineteenth World Health Assembly in Geneva, and returned to New York on 5 May.

On 29 June, the Secretary-General left for Turin (Italy) to attend the first global meeting of the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme on 30 June. From Turin, he proceeded to Geneva where he presided over meetings of ACC and addressed the opening meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

On 7 July, he left Geneva for Keflavik, Iceland, for his first official visit to that country. He returned to New York on 9 July.

At the invitation of the Government of the Soviet Union, the Secretary-General visited Moscow (24-30 July), and held talks with the Soviet leaders on matters of mutual interest.

U Thant has received honorary degrees (LL.D.) from the following universities: Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada (25 May 1962); Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts (10 June 1962); Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey (12 June 1962); Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts (2 June 1963); Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (13 June 1963); Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire (16 June 1963); University of California at Berkeley, California (2 April 1964); University of Denver, Denver, Colorado (3 April 1964); Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (8 June 1964); New York University, New York (10 June 1964); Moscow University, Moscow, Soviet Union (30 July 1964); Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario (22 May 1965); Colby College, Waterville, Maine (6 June 1965); Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (14 June 1965).

On 26 June 1965, he addressed a convocation honouring the United Nations and its Permanent Representatives, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter at the University of California, Berkeley. He received honorary degrees (LL.D.) from the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada (28 May 1966); Hamilton College, Clinton, New York (5 June 1966); Fordham University, Bronx, New York (8 June 1966); Manhattan College, New York (14 June 1966).

In September 1962, he also received a medal from Charles University, Prague, commemorating the 600th anniversary of its foundation.

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At the time of his appointment as Acting Secretary-General, U Thant had been Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador (1957-1961).

During that period, he headed the Burmese delegations to the sessions of the General Assembly, and in 1959, he served as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly's fourteenth session. In 1961, U Thant was Chairman of the United Nations Congo Conciliation Commission and Chairman of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund.

During his diplomatic career, U Thant served on several occasions as Adviser to Prime Ministers of Burma.

In this capacity, he assisted the then Prime Minister, U Nu, at the first and second Colombo Prime Ministers' Conferences, held respectively in Colombo, Ceylon, and in Bogor, Indonesia; at the Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, 1955; and at the Belgrade Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, 1961. U Thant also accompanied U Nu as Adviser on visits to several countries in Asia and Europe.

U Thant was also Adviser to the then Prime Minister, U Ba Swe, at the Third Colombo Prime Ministers' Conference, held in New Delhi in 1956, and at the Asian Socialist Conference in Bombay in the same year.

Earlier, he was a member of Burmese Good-Will Missions to Thailand and Indonesia in 1951.

U Thant was born at Pantanaw, Burma, on 22 January 1909, and was educated at the National High School in Pantanaw and at University College, Rangoon.

At the age of 20, he won the All-Burma Translation Competition organized by the Burma Education Extension Association.

Prior to his diplomatic career, U Thant's experience was in education and information work. He served as Senior Master at the National High School, which he had attended in Pantanaw, and in 1931, he became Headmaster after winning first place in the Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Teachership Examination.

He was a member of Burma's Textbook Committee and of the Council of National Education before World War II, and was an Executive Committee member of the Heads of Schools Association. He was also active as a free-lance journalist.

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In 1942, U Thant served for a few months as Secretary of Burma's Education Reorganization Committee. In the following year, he returned to the National High School as Headmaster for another four years.

U Thant was appointed Press Director of the Government of Burma in 1947. In 1948, he became Director of Broadcasting, and in the following year, he was appointed Secretary to the Government of Burma in the Ministry of Information.

In 1953, U Thant became Secretary for Projects in the Office of the Prime Minister, and in 1955, he was assigned additional duties as Executive Secretary of Burma's Economic and Social Board.

U Thant has been active in the work of a number of Burmese organizations, including the Burma Research Society, the Burma Council of World Affairs, the Burmese Historical Commission and the Burma Translation Society, of which he is a Councillor.

From 1952 to 1957, he was Chairman of the Burmese Film Award Board.

He is the author of several books, including Cities and Their Stories (1930), League of Nations (1933), Towards a New Education (1946), Democracy in Schools (1952), and a two-volume History of Post-War Burma (1961).

Among the titles conferred on U Thant by the Government of the Union of Burma are Munna Kyaw Htin (January 1949), Thiripyanchi (January 1953), Sithu (January 1957) and Maha Thray Sithu (January 1961).

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UNITED NATIONS

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

Press Release SG/SM/545
CYP/403
4 August 1966

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

Following is the text of a letter, dated 1 August, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Carl Rappe, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"I have the honour to refer to your letter FI 323/3 (18) of 21 June 1966, in which you drew attention to operative paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 222 (1966) of 16 June 1966, extending the stationing of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus for the period 26 June 1966-26 December 1966, and in which you appealed to my Government to make a voluntary contribution for the peace-keeping operation in Cyprus.

"I have now been instructed to inform you that the Government of Sweden has decided to make a contribution of 180.000.-US dollars towards meeting the costs for the six-month period indicated above. 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 Services
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Press Release SG/SM/544
3 August 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA

Following is the text of a message of condolences sent today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Alfonso Ortega Urbina, on the death of the President of Nicaragua, Rene Schick:

Original Spanish Text

"Con profundo pesar me he enterado del fallecimiento del Excelentísimo Señor Rene Schick, Presidente de Nicaragua, a quien recientemente tuve el honor de recibir en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas. Al rogarle aceptar la expresión de mi muy sincera condolencia con motivo de esta sensible pérdida que seguramente ha causado hondo sentimiento en Nicaragua, me permito pedirle se sirva extender mi pésame a la familia del difunto Presidente."

Unofficial translation from Spanish

"I was deeply grieved to learn of the death of His Excellency Mr. Rene Schick, the President of Nicaragua, whom I recently had the honour to receive at United Nations Headquarters. In asking you to accept my very sincere condolences on the occasion of this great loss, which no doubt has been deeply felt in Nicaragua, I request you kindly to convey my sympathy to the family of the late President."

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UNITED NATIONS

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

Press Release SG/SM/543
30 July 1966

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT,
ON HIS ARRIVAL AT KENNEDY AIRPORT, NEW YORK, ON 30 JULY 1966

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: As you know, I just came back from Moscow after a five-day visit there at the kind invitation of the Soviet Government. I had very useful and frank and friendly exchanges of views with the Soviet leaders, including the General Secretary of the Central Committee, Mr. Brezhnev, Premier Kosygin and the Acting Foreign Minister. Of course, there were no set items for discussions but we dealt with matters of common interest to the Soviet Union and the United Nations. Of course, developments affecting international peace and security were brought up.

Inevitably, the Viet-Nam war dominated our talks. The talks were very useful and I will be glad to answer some questions, if you have any.

QUESTION: After your visit, Sir, do you now feel that the Soviet Union is going to... Do you expect the Soviet Union to make any voluntary contribution to the United Nations' financial crisis?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, in the course of our talks, this question was raised. I was given to understand that the Soviet Government is studying the reports of the Committee of 14 which, as you know, has been dealing with the financial situation of the United Nations and, so far, they have not come to any decision regarding action based on the recommendations of the Committee of 14.

QUESTION: Do you have any indication from the Soviet Union about peace talks over Viet-Nam?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, I assessed their views and their attitudes towards the Viet-Nam war, and the views of the Soviet Government are well known. I have nothing new to add to what you have known already. Of course, they told me they are prepared to render all possible assistance to the Government of North Viet-Nam.

(more)

QUESTION: Did your trip help you to make up your mind, Sir, whether or not to be available for another term as Secretary-General?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, Mr. MacVane, my trip was not related to my prospective decision regarding my availability for a second term, and it was not my purpose in making the trip to Moscow or, for that matter, to any other capital of Member States.

QUESTION: Did the Soviet leaders give you any indication that they might intercede with Hanoi on behalf of the captured American pilots?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I don't think the Soviet Government would intercede in this question. As you well know from the reply of President Ho Chi Minh to some of the leaders -- replies which have been made public -- I don't think the captured American pilots will get the extreme penalty, and I believe that they will receive a very lenient treatment, from the public statements of the authorities in Hanoi.

QUESTION: Do you think a trip to Hanoi at this point by yourself would be useful?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I don't think so.

QUESTION: Why?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Because, as you know, North Viet-Nam is not a member of the United Nations. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, the attitude of Hanoi has been made very clear. Hanoi has nothing to do with the United Nations as far as the question of the Viet-Nam war is concerned. I have been exerting efforts to contribute towards a solution of the Viet-Nam war as an individual -- as U Thant -- not as the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(more)

QUESTION: You have been quoted from Paris as saying that you fear that the Viet-Nam war may spill over the frontiers. What did you mean by that?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: No, I have all along felt that if the Viet-Nam war develops in the way it has been developing, it is likely to develop into a major war, and my fears were confirmed after my talks with the Soviet leaders. If the present trend continues, I feel that the Viet-Nam war is likely to develop into a major war.

QUESTION: You mean with Russia and China perhaps involved?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: No, I don't want to go into specifics. My feeling is that the fighting might spill over the frontiers.

QUESTION: Sir, did you find agreement by the Soviet leaders with your three-point programme on lessening and finally ending the Viet-Nam war?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I did not bring up the question of my three-point proposal with the Soviet leaders, as I do not believe that they have any relevancy to the Government of the Soviet Union.

QUESTION: Was there any discussion with the Soviet Union concerning disarmament?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Yes.

QUESTION: Can you tell us anything about that?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, you know the Viet-Nam war has repercussions in all fields of discussion, including disarmament. I think, in the disarmament talks which are going on in Geneva, the atmosphere is not very propitious, but I very much hope -- and I have expressed this hope in all the capitals I have visited -- that some perceptible advance would be made on both items: non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and the banning of all tests before the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

(more)

QUESTION: Sir, what was it about your discussions with the Soviet leaders that made you come back with the same pessimism about this expansion, this possible expansion of the Viet-Nam war? Was it anything specifically that they said, or was it something that they didn't say?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Yes, they told me, as I said a moment ago, that they are prepared to render all possible assistance to North Viet-Nam. Of course, as you know, the conceptions are different and the attitudes are different. For instance, to put it in plain terms, the United States views North Viet-Nam as aggressors. The Soviet Union views the United States as aggressors. With these very differing viewpoints, it is very difficult to reconcile the attitudes.

QUESTION: Did they give you any example as to how far it has to go before it erupts into a major war?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: No. Of course we didn't go into specifics.

QUESTION: Did the Soviet officials, by any chance, give you any message to bring back to the American people?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: No.

QUESTION: Have you any suggestion of what immediate step might be taken to head off the disaster that you are talking about?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think the general feeling in Moscow is that it is up to those who are fighting to take the initiatives.

QUESTION: Is there anything that the United Nations can do?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Not for the moment.

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UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release SG/T/111
30 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL LEAVES MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK

He Answers Questions by Correspondents in Moscow and Paris Airports

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, left Moscow this morning for Paris en route to New York.

Before his departure, the Secretary-General stated to correspondents at Moscow Airport that his visit to the Soviet Union was very useful and helpful and thanked the Soviet leaders and Government for their kind invitation and hospitality.

Asked about the Viet-Nam war, the Secretary-General said "I am convinced this war will develop into a major war and will spill over frontiers if the present trend continues".

Asked about his three-point proposal regarding the Viet-Nam conflict, he answered that so far there had not been a positive response from the parties.

Asked if the Soviet Union would support him for a second term, the Secretary-General said that Premier Alexei Kosygin in a public toast, had expressed the hope that U Thant would come back to visit the Soviet Union next year as Secretary-General.

In response to a question regarding Soviet voluntary contribution, the Secretary-General said that the Soviet Government informed him that they were studying the considerations of the Committee of 14.

In Paris, the Secretary-General was met at Le Bourget Airport by Herve Alphanet, Secretary-General of the Quai D'Orsay; M. Du Boisberranger, representing the Protocol Department of the French Government; Guy de Lacharriere, Head of the United Nations Department of the Quai D'Orsay; Pe Thein Tin and Tun Kyi, representing the Burmese Ambassador who is presently absent from Paris; and the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Paris.

(more)

Press Release SG/T/111
30 July 1966

Questions put to the Secretary-General by correspondents before his departure from Orly Airport were almost identical to those put at the Moscow Airport this morning. One additional element was as follows: a correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had said that the Viet-Nam war could develop into a major war if the present trend continued, as a result of his talks with Soviet Government. The Secretary-General replied "I have felt this all along and my talks with the Soviet leaders have confirmed my fears".

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

Press Release SG/T/110
30 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL GIVES RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF SOVIET HOSTS

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General gave a reception in Moscow last night at the official reception villa, 17 Ulitsa Aleksey Tolstogo, in honour of his Soviet hosts. Some 120 guests from the Soviet Government, as well as members of the United Nations offices in Moscow attended. Among them were Premier Alexi Kosygin, Deputy Premiers V.N. Novikov and U.A. Kirillin, Education Minister V.P. Eliutin, Minister of Culture Mrs. E.A. Furtseva, Foreign Minister, Russian Federation, M.A. Menshikov, Foreign Minister, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, D.Z. Belokolos, Foreign Minister, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, A.M. Gurinovitch, Minister of Health V.V. Petrovsky, Acting Foreign Minister V. Kouznetsov and many high officials from the Foreign Ministry and other departments. Also present were U Ba Saw, Ambassador of Burma and members of his staff.

The reception lasted for about two hours, spent in warm and cordial atmosphere.

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Press Release SG/C/34
GA/3181
29 July 1966

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUND
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND, SWAZILAND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has pledged a contribution of \$US 2,500 to the United Nations Fund for the Economic Development of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2063 (XX). These three territories are administered by the United Kingdom. Basutoland is due to attain its independence next October and Bechuanaland in September.

In a letter dated 21 July 1966, addressed to the Secretary-General, U Thant, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stated that, having regard to its own financial difficulties, it was not in a position to pledge a larger contribution. However, it wished to participate in the Fund, which was an enterprise of universal solidarity.

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Press Release SG/T/109
29 July 1966

U THANT HAS CONSULTATIONS WITH L. BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, at 10 a.m. today had a one-hour and 35 minutes talk with the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, L. Brezhnev, at the latter's office.

V.V. Kouznetsov, Acting Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, K. Novikov, Chief of the Department for International Organizations of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and A.E. Nesterenko, Under-Secretary, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the United Nations participated.

The subjects discussed were Viet-Nam and United Nations affairs, including the availability of U Thant for a second term as Secretary-General.

The talks were conducted in a free and friendly atmosphere.

At twelve noon, D. Belokolos, Foreign Minister of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and A. Gurinovich, Foreign Minister of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, called on the Secretary-General at his residence. The conversation dealt with United Nations matters and lasted 40 minutes.

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Press Release SG/T/108
29 July 1966

U THANT ATTENDS LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY LENINGRAD CITY COUNCIL

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

At a luncheon given yesterday (28 July) by the City Council of Leningrad in honour of the Secretary-General, U Thant, the Council's President, G.V. Troitsky, drank to U Thant's health and to his continuing success as Secretary-General in his efforts for world peace.

Responding, U Thant explained his concept of the United Nations Charter, stressing that peace was its basic objective. He referred to the sufferings of the people of Leningrad during World War II and to their valiant efforts for the reconstruction of the city and to their determination to live in peace.

In the course of his remarks, the Secretary-General said that "never before during the history of the United Nations have the clouds of war been hanging so thick as a result of the war in my part of the world -- I mean in South-East Asia".

Concluding, U Thant drank a toast to the people of Leningrad, to the Soviet people and their leaders, and to peace everywhere.

(See also press release SG/T/107.)

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

Press Release SG/SM/542
CYP/402

28 July 1966

TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM LUXEMBOURG
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a note verbale, dated 25 July, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, regarding the costs of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

Original text in French

"Le Représentant Permanent du Luxembourg auprès des Nations Unies présente ses compliments à Monsieur le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies et a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance que le Gouvernement luxembourgeois versera dans les tout premiers jours une contribution volontaire de \$5.000 (cinq mille dollars) destinée au financement de la Force des Nations Unies chargée du maintien de la paix à Chypre pour la huitième période."

Unofficial translation into English

"The Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that the Government of Luxembourg will, within a few days, make a voluntary contribution of \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) towards the financing of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus for the eighth period (26 March to 26 June 1966)."

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

Press Release SG/T/107
28 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL RETURNS TO MOSCOW FROM LENINGRAD

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, and party returned to Moscow from Leningrad at 7:30 p.m. this evening. He spent the day (28 July) sight-seeing in Leningrad. He visited the Hermitage and museums in the city.

U Thant was guest of honour today at a luncheon given by the City Council of Leningrad.

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Press Release SG/T/106
27 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES DISCUSSIONS WITH ACTING FOREIGN
MINISTER OF SOVIET UNION

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

At 10 a.m. today (27 July), the Secretary-General, U Thant, went to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow to see V.V. Kouznetsov, Acting Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union. The talks lasted one hour and 45 minutes and were a continuation of yesterday's discussions on matters of mutual interest to the Soviet Union and the United Nations. A.E. Nesterenko, Under-Secretary, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and K. Novikov, Chief of the Department for International Organizations of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated.

The luncheon that followed at the Secretary-General's residence was private.

At 3 p.m. today, the Secretary-General will visit Moscow University at the invitation of G.I. Petrovsky, Rector of the University.

At 6:30 p.m. today, U Thant will visit the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow to meet members of the staff.

At 7:40 p.m. the Secretary-General and party will attend a dinner given by U.Ba Saw, the Burmese Ambassador in Moscow, at the latter's residence.

At midnight, the Secretary-General will travel with his party, accompanied by Mr. Novikov, to Leningrad on a private visit. He will arrive in that city at 8 a.m. on 28 July. No business or official talks are scheduled in Leningrad. U Thant will return to Moscow on the evening of 28 July by plane.

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Press Release SG/T/105
26 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS CONSULTATIONS WITH PREMIER OF SOVIET UNION

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, today had almost a three-hour talk with Premier Alexei Kosygin of the Soviet Union. A private conversation lasting one hour and 40 minutes took place in the Premier's office at the Kremlin and was continued over lunch given by Mr. Kosygin at Kathrin Hall in the Kremlin.

The talks were a free and frank exchange of views in a very cordial atmosphere and covered the Viet-Nam war, disarmament and European problems.

In a brief speech after lunch, the Premier paid high tribute to U Thant and his efforts for world peace, and expressed the hope that the Soviet Government would welcome him again in Moscow as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Responding, U Thant expressed gratitude, referred to the difficulties in carrying out the duties of Secretary-General and wished the Soviet people and their leaders peace and prosperity.

This afternoon, the Secretary-General had an hour-and-a-half talk with V.V. Kouznetsov at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. They discussed matters of mutual interest to the Soviet Union and the United Nations.

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Press Release SG/T/104/Rev.1
26 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL IS HONOUR GUEST AT MOSCOW DINNER

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, who is on a four-day visit in the Soviet Union, was the guest of honour at a dinner given in Moscow last night by the Acting Foreign Minister, V.V. Kouznetsov.

Soviet officials who attended the dinner included V.N. Novikov, Deputy Premier; V.A. Kirillin, Deputy Premier; D.Z. Belokolos, Foreign Minister of the Ukraine; A.E. Gurinovich, Foreign Minister of Byelorussia; K.V. Novikov, Chief of the International Organizations Department of the Foreign Office and other officials.

Members of the Secretary-General's party, A.E. Nesterenko, I. Chechetkin, Donald Thomas and Ramses Nassif, also attended.

Towards the end of the dinner, Mr. Kouznetsov spoke warmly of the long friendship which he had had with U Thant since 1957 and of the Secretary-General's efforts for the United Nations. Mr. Kouznetsov reiterated the Soviet Union's support for a strong and effective United Nations and for the maintenance of peace and security in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter. In conclusion, Mr. Kouznetsov drank to the health and continuing success of U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Responding, U Thant thanked Mr. Kouznetsov for his support for the United Nations and for his kind tribute. The Secretary-General elaborated on his concept of the objectives of the Charter which, he said, were: peace throughout the world, economic and social development for all, and the harmonizing of the functions of the United Nations.

Referring to Viet-Nam, U Thant explained the yearning of the Vietnamese people for peace and independence without any interference from any quarter.

(more)

He added: "It is our duty to find ways and means to put an end to this savage war on an honourable and just basis -- I have been endeavouring to help in this direction and am looking forward to exchanging views with Soviet leaders on this problem." In conclusion, U Thant drank to the health of the Soviet leaders and their dedication to peace and prosperity.

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Press Release SG/T/103
25 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

(The following was received from the Information Officer accompanying the Secretary-General.)

The Secretary-General, U Thant, arrived in Moscow at 5:15 p.m. local time today. He was met at the airport by V. Kouznetsov, acting Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union; D. Belokolos, Foreign Minister of the Ukraine; A. Gurinovich, Foreign Minister of Byelorussia; K. Novikov, Chief of the Department of International Organizations of the Foreign Ministry; U Ba Saw, Ambassador of Burma; and I. Chechetkin, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow.

In a brief statement to correspondents at the airport, U Thant said he was very happy to visit Moscow again. This was his fourth visit as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

He thanked the General Secretary of the Communist Party, L.I. Breshnev, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Alexei N. Kosygin, for their kind invitation, and added that he was looking forward to his talks with the Soviet leaders on matters of mutual interest. The developments in the world that affected peace and security would also come up for discussion, he declared.

The Secretary-General added: "I was here towards the end of July 1964 -- almost exactly two years ago today -- and the international situation then was not as bleak as it is today, although even then there were portents of a gathering storm. Today, the atmosphere is fraught with many dangerous possibilities. In discussing matters of common interest, we are bound to exchange views on the trouble spots in the world, with a view of finding ways and means to improve the situation."

Concluding, U Thant wished the Soviet people and their leaders peace and prosperity.

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Press Release SG/T/102
22 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

At the invitation of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Secretary-General, U Thant, will visit the Soviet Union from 25 to 29 July.

U Thant will leave New York on Sunday, 24 July, and will arrive in Moscow on 25 July for talks with the leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on matters of common interest.

He will return to New York on 29 July.

The Secretary-General will be accompanied by Ramses Nassif, Press Aide, and Donald Thomas, Personal Aide.

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Press Release SG/SM/541
21 July 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
SWEDISH SAVE THE CHILDREN ORGANIZATION

Following is the text of a letter, dated 15 July, addressed by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to Mrs. Inga C. Kempe, President of the Swedish Save the Children Organization, through Baron Carl Johan Rappe, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations:

"I and my colleagues, particularly in the United Nations Children's Fund, have followed with great interest the work of the Swedish Save the Children Organization. I am therefore pleased to send you the following statement for publication in connexion with your forthcoming appeal:

"It must stir the consciences of all of us to be reminded of the many millions of people around the world who suffer from serious, debilitating disease. Leprosy is, perhaps, the most degrading and demoralizing kind of disease. It is widely distributed throughout the world and is particularly prevalent in the developing countries. At least 10,700,000 people have leprosy; a large number of them are children. What is more tragic is that many hundreds of thousands of cases go undiagnosed.

"Much can be done to control the disease: treatment is beneficial and cure is possible when the disease is discovered in its early stages. The tragic fact is, however, that only about one-fifth of those affected are diagnosed and treated. Age-old prejudices prevent people coming forward for treatment and, in many instances, not only drugs, but doctors, nurses and health educators are lacking. At the same time, the future of leprosy control depends on further research to find and develop a new and more effective drug or a vaccine to prevent the disease.

(more)

"'Money raised for the campaign against leprosy will help in the fight against this ancient scourge. I am sure that the Swedish people will support the Save the Children Organization in its appeal for their help'

"I wish the Organization all success in its campaign."

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE

Not for use before 6:30 p.m. EDT
(2230 GMT) today, Thursday, 21 July

Press Release SG, SM, 540
21 July 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OCCASION
OF THE MILLENNIUM OF POLAND

"I am grateful for the opportunity which the millennium of Poland affords me of sending greetings and congratulations to the Government and people of that proud and ancient land.

"A thousand years of statehood is a long time in the history of modern mankind. The last thousand years, moreover, have been crowded with events that have shaken and indeed revolutionized the world -- triumphant times of discovery, technological advance and cultural and social development, as well as tragic periods of oppression, poverty and war.

"Poland has had her share, indeed a larger share than most other countries of similar size, of all of these. The story of the millennium, as I see it, is the story of an unending struggle by the Polish people to assert their individuality and their national independence. The suffering and the valour of Poland found their climax in the second World War, and among the ruins of that war the Polish people carried out the great feat of social and physical reconstruction that gives their thousand-year-old State its new and distinctive form.

"I wish for Poland and her people a future of prosperity, progress and peace."

22 July 1966.

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(more)

The message was transmitted by C. V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet, to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations, Eugeniusz Wyzner, with the following letter, dated 13 July:

"As you may know, the Secretary-General was pleased to accept an invitation from Ambassador Lewandowski before the Ambassador's departure, to send a brief message on the occasion of the millennium of Poland.

"The Secretary-General has now had an opportunity to prepare the message, and I am glad to enclose it herewith for transmission to your Government."

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Press Release SG/SM/539
20 July 1966

TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA TO UNITED NATIONS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 15 July, addressed by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Permanent Representative of the Mongolian People's Republic, Luvsandorjiin Toiv, concerning the recent floods in Ulan Bator:

"I have been distressed to read a press report today of a disastrous flood in Ulan Bator. If the account is correct, I should be grateful if you would convey to your Government, and through it to the authorities and people of Ulan Bator, my deepest sympathy for the hardships and for the losses of human life and property which they have sustained.

"I should also like you to advise your Government that, should circumstances require it, the United Nations is ready to give any help which lies within its possibilities, and that I should be very glad to arrange consultations with your Government to this end."

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Press Release SG/SM/538
CYP/401
19 July 1966

TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM GREECE
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 18 July, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Aristotle J. Phrydas, regarding the costs of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Greek Government has decided to offer a voluntary contribution of 600,000 dollars towards the financing of the United Nations Force in Cyprus for the six-month period from 27 June to 26 December 1966.

"This new voluntary contribution is being made by Greece -- whose total contributions now amount to 4,450,000 dollars -- in response to the urgent appeal of Your Excellency dated 21 June 1966, and in view of the financial situation of UNFICYP as depicted in that appeal.

"May I take this opportunity to convey once more to Your Excellency the appreciation of the Greek Government for the work of peace accomplished by the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

"I am enclosing herewith cheque No. 400566 of the Bank of Greece, in the amount of 600,000 dollars, representing the aforementioned contribution of the Greek Government."

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Press Release SG/SM/537
16 July 1966

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT ON VIET-NAM

The Secretary-General believes that human life is sacred. Based on this belief, he views all forms of violence and all wars as evil. This conviction, among others, has prompted him to exert his utmost to contribute towards the cessation of all hostilities in Viet-Nam and a search for a just and peaceful solution of the Vietnamese conflict.

When the news of the impending trial of American prisoners in North Viet-Nam was brought to his notice, he expressed his concern over the possible fate of those prisoners. In addition to humanitarian grounds, he feels that the possible trial of American prisoners is certain to generate still more intense escalation of the war. The Viet-Nam war already has potentialities of developing into World War III.

The Secretary-General has noted the statement of several United States Senators, made yesterday, that the trial and execution of American prisoners would lead to "new levels of suffering and sorrow, and fixing more firmly still the seal of an implacable war".

The Secretary-General wishes, therefore, to appeal to the Government of North Viet-Nam to exercise restraint in its treatment of American prisoners. He also appeals to all parties to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, irrespective of various conflicting interpretations.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate the three points which he has repeatedly proposed regarding the Viet-Nam conflict, namely:

1. the cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam;
2. the scaling down of all military operations by all parties in South Viet-Nam;
3. the willingness of all parties to enter into discussion with those who are actually fighting.

The Secretary-General feels very strongly that these steps alone can create an atmosphere congenial for discussions and negotiations.

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Press Release SG/C/33
GA/3180
15 July 1966

TURKEY CONTRIBUTES \$1,000 TO TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has received a contribution of \$1,000 from the Government of Turkey to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965.

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

Press Release SG/SM/536

14 July 1966

TEXTS OF LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF PORTUGAL

The following are the texts of letters exchanged between the Foreign Minister of Portugal, Alberto Franco Nogueira, and the Secretary-General, U Thant:

Letter from Portugal

July 11, 1966

"I have the honour to inform that, having immediately transmitted to Lisbon the reply of the Secretary-General of the United Nations contained in your letter of 5 July 1966, the Foreign Minister of Portugal has now asked me to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the following:

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6 July 1966, in which you inform that you are prepared to discuss with me all relevant questions within the context of the Security Council resolution 218 (1965), and request that I should suggest a convenient date for such discussion during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

"As I recalled in my letter of 28 June last, and as I had also already underlined in my prior letter of 23 March last, the Portuguese Government formulated at the appropriate time the most explicit reservations regarding the above-mentioned resolution, and reiterated them in the above-mentioned letters. However, without the least prejudice to these reservations, and because the matter was a subject of debate in the Security Council, and is incorporated in the said resolution, the Portuguese Government is prepared to discuss problems of regional co-operation in Africa and questions of international peace and security in that continent. Within this context, and in order to satisfy without delay your request regarding the indication of a date, I suggest that the conversations could be initiated immediately following the termination of the general debate in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly at a date which naturally, it will be possible to fix only then in view of the circumstances.

(more)

"Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the expression of my highest consideration."

Letter from Secretary-General

14 July 1966

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your reply conveyed to me by letter No. 49 of 11 July 1966 from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations to my Chef de Cabinet. With respect to the date for the proposed discussions, I would find entirely acceptable your suggestion that the discussions be initiated immediately following the termination of the general debate in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. I must reiterate, however, that I can only discuss the relevant questions with you within the context of Security Council resolution 218 (1965).

"I should wish to add that, as you have released your letter to the press and made further statements in connexion therewith, I am also issuing my present letter as a press release."

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Press Release SG/C/32
GA/3179

13 July 1966

NIGERIA TO CONTRIBUTE £1,000 TO TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has been informed by the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations that the Government of Nigeria has decided to make a contribution of £1,000 sterling to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965.

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United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/T/101
11 July 1966

SECRETARY-GENERAL RETURNS TO NEW YORK

The Secretary-General, U Thant, returned to New York on Saturday evening, 9 July, after a 10-day trip to Turin, Geneva and Reykjavik.

On 8 July, while in Reykjavik, the Secretary-General had a one-hour-long talk with the Prime Minister of Iceland, Bjarni Benediktsson, and the Foreign Minister, Emil Jonsson, at the Prime Minister's Office. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Accompanied by the Foreign Minister; the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, Hannes Kjartansson; the Director-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Agnar Klemenz Jonsson; and the Chief of Protocol, Pall Asgeir Triggvason, the Secretary-General spent the afternoon at Thingvellir, the place where the Icelandic Parliament met for the first time 1,000 years ago. They also toured parts of the city.

Late that afternoon, the Secretary-General gave a talk in the Grand Hall of the University. The talk was sponsored by the Icelandic United Nations Association. The President of Iceland, Asgeir Asgeirsson was present.

The Secretary-General was introduced by the Rector of the University and President of the United Nations Association, Armann Snaevarr, who welcomed U Thant and praised his efforts for peace and stability in the world. The theme of the Secretary-General's speech was: "The harmonizing role of the United Nations".

In thanking the Secretary-General, Prime Minister Benediktsson urged U Thant to make himself available for re-election to the high and important office "he had served so well".

In a short press conference, the Secretary-General reiterated what he had said at his press conference in Geneva.

That evening, the Secretary-General was guest of honour at a dinner given by the Prime Minister in the Government's guest house.

(more)

Press Release SG/T/101
11 July 1966

U Thant left Reykjavik on Saturday, 9 July. He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Minister, the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Chief of Protocol.

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TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM DENMARK
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter, dated 6 July, received by the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, Hans R. Tabor, regarding the costs of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"With reference to your letter dated March 24, 1966 - FI 323/3 (18) - in which you appealed for voluntary contributions to provide the necessary financial support for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Denmark has decided to make a further contribution of \$60,000, - to meet the costs of the period ending June 26, 1966. 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.

As previously, the above-mentioned amount will be placed with a bank account in Denmark and offset against expenses paid by the Danish authorities in connection with the Danish Contingent to UNFICYP."

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