

Press Releases of the S-G: U Thant

Text from S-G, AUGUST 1968, SG/SM 344 - 353

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Press Release SG/SM/344  
7 August 1965

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO WORLD COUNCIL MEETING OF YMCAs

Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant to the World Council Meeting of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCAs) which is being held in Tokyo and Sizuoka, Japan from 8 to 14 August.

"I wish to extend my greetings and best wishes to this World Council Meeting of YMCAs. I am delighted that the meeting is giving special attention from the public platform and in its commission, to the call of the United Nations General Assembly to observe 'International Co-operation Year in a Decade of Development'.

"The critical issues confronting the world today are the concern of all of us who have accepted the primary purposes enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations -- the maintenance of international peace and security and the well-being of mankind.

"Your organization, I understand, represents some 12,000 local Associations in 80 nations across the world, with millions of participants and with objectives akin to those of the United Nations. You have a creditable record in various areas of international co-operation and development, and have been a pioneer in many areas in work for youth, in institutions, conferences, camps, recreation, community development, as well as in co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations.

"The relationship of the World Alliance of YMCAs to the United Nations is a dual one. Yours is among the world non-governmental organizations having a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for matters within your competence. The United Nations also looks to the non-governmental organizations for the widest possible dissemination of information regarding its activities and problems. As a voluntary agency, you are in a particularly advantageous and strong position to assist in a wider and better understanding of the United Nations.

(more)

"As increasing numbers of people across the world recognize the United Nations as the place where the hope of the human race is centred, the importance of effective dissemination of information cannot be exaggerated. Public opinion can be formed only by the dissemination of correct information, especially when it is undertaken by an organization such as yours with its influence in so many countries. The achievements and successes, as well as weaknesses of the United Nations must be interpreted in different ways in different areas of the world. It is of fundamental importance to the work of the United Nations that the World Alliance of YMCAs, along with all non-governmental organizations which can help toward the creation of sound public opinion and public confidence, should exert itself in getting the facts before the peoples of the world. Aside from all other factors, support by an informed public is essential for the future success of the United Nations.

"So in this year of international co-operation, I would appeal to your world-wide organization to extend your present areas of international co-operation; to expand your efforts to create an ever-increasing awareness of the United Nations as the best hope for peace in our day and in the future, and to contribute to a better understanding of, and deeper dedication to, the purposes of the United Nations as outlined in the Preamble of its Charter.

"I wish you the greatest success in your deliberations."

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Press Release SG/SM/345  
CYP/296

9 August 1965

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

Following is the text of a letter dated 6 August 1965 to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, E.R. Richardson, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"The Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the letter from the Secretary-General No. FI 323/3(18) of 18 June 1965, about the United Nations Operation in Cyprus.

"In response to the Secretary-General's request the Government of Jamaica has approved a voluntary contribution of \$2,000.00 (U.S.) to the United Nations Operation in Cyprus."

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Press Release SG/SM/346  
21 August 1965

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CONCERNING PICTURE OF PLANET MARS

Following is text of letter dated 20 August 1965 from the Secretary-General U Thant, to President Johnson in reply to a letter dated 13 August 1965 from the President of the United States concerning a photograph of Mars taken from Mariner IV. The text of the President's letter is also given below:

"Dear Mr. President,

"I am most grateful to you for your letter of 13 August and for the beautiful reproduction of the first television photograph of Mars, taken from the Mariner IV spacecraft on 14 July 1965. I am glad to know that this photograph and others taken on this historic flight will be made freely available to the entire world scientific community.

"I share your sentiment that the flight of the Mariner IV spacecraft represents a new triumph in the international effort to expand frontiers of human knowledge, and to make available the benefits of that knowledge to all mankind.

"With warmest personal regards,".

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General;

"I take great pleasure in sending you on behalf of the American people a copy of a first television photograph of Mars, taken from the MARINER IV spacecraft on July 14, 1965. This photograph was taken at an altitude of about 7,800 miles above the surface of Mars while the spacecraft was 134 million miles from the Earth.

"This photograph and others taken on this historic flight will be made freely available to the entire world scientific community.

"The successful flight of MARINER IV would not have been possible but for the skills and the cooperation of scientists and engineers in many countries.

(more)



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21 August 1965

"The flight is a triumph of the human spirit in its constant effort to expand the frontiers of human knowledge and to realize the benefit of that knowledge for all mankind. I am confident that this achievement will reinforce the determination of people everywhere that man's conquest of space shall be carried out in the spirit of a peaceful quest for knowledge."

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Press Release SG/SM/347  
KASH/131  
24 August 1965

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE KASHMIR SITUATION

"As already indicated, I am greatly concerned about the situation in Kashmir. It poses a very serious and dangerous threat to peace.

"Therefore, in the course of the past two weeks, I have been in earnest consultation with the permanent representatives of the two Governments with a view to stopping the violations of the cease-fire line which have been reported to me by General Nimmo, Chief Military Observer of UNMOGIP,\* and effecting a restoration of normal conditions along the cease-fire line.

"In the same context I have had in mind the possibility of sending urgently a Personal Representative to the area for the purpose of meeting and talking with appropriate authorities of the two Governments and with General Nimmo, and conveying to the Governments my very serious concern about the situation and exploring with them ways and means of preventing any further deterioration in that situation and restoring quiet along the cease-fire line.

"Should such a mission materialize I had it in mind to ask Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, to undertake it. The idea was broached to the two parties informally on 20 August. The subsequent responses of the two Governments, while not negative, involved in each case conditions which, in my view, would make the mission not feasible at this time and therefore I have abandoned it.

"As a further and immediate step, however, I have asked General Nimmo to come quickly to United Nations Headquarters for consultation with me about the situation in Kashmir, and he is expected to arrive from Srinagar before the end of the week. I shall give consideration to other efforts that I might make in the light of the discussions with General Nimmo."

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\* Major-General Robert H. Nimmo, Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

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Press Release SG/SM/348  
25 August 1955

MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL ON YEMEN PEACE AGREEMENT  
SENT TO KING FAISAL AND PRESIDENT NASSER

The Secretary-General, U Thant, on 25 August has addressed to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic identical cables of congratulations on the peace agreement on Yemen which they signed at Jidda on 24 August. The texts of the cabled messages are as follows:

To King Faisal

"It is with much pleasure and gratification that I learn of the agreement concerning peace in Yemen which has been signed at Jidda by Your Majesty and President Nasser. In this step, you have made a most important contribution to peace and goodwill in the Middle East. May I, Your Majesty, extend to you my warm congratulations on your wisdom and statesmanship in achieving this signal success."

To President Nasser

"It is with much pleasure and gratification that I learn of the agreement concerning peace in Yemen which has been signed at Jidda by Your Excellency and King Faisal. In this step, you have made a most important contribution to peace and goodwill in the Middle East. May I, Your Excellency, extend to you my warm congratulations on your wisdom and statesmanship in achieving this signal success."

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Press Release SG/SM/349  
CYP/298

26 August 1965

TEXT OF MESSAGE TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM TURKEY  
ON EXPENSES OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a message dated 26 August to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, Orhan Eralp, regarding the costs of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

"I have the honour to present herewith a check in the amount of US\$200,000 (Two hundred thousand dollars) representing the payment of the contribution of the Turkish Government to the expenses of the United Nations Force in Cyprus."

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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/350  
30 August 1965

CONGRATULATIONS SENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PRESIDENT  
OF UNITED STATES ON GEMINI FLIGHT

Following is the text of a telegram, dated 29 August, sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to President Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States:

"Heartiest congratulations on the safe completion of the historic eight-day flight in outer space of Conrad and Cooper in their Gemini V capsule. This marks yet another milestone in the triumphal onward march of science and space technology which will, I am sure, benefit all humanity. I also offer my personal felicitations to the two astronauts who have shown such endurance and courage."

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Press Release SG/SM/351  
30 August 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL SENDS MESSAGE TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF CHILE ON NEW DISASTER IN COUNTRY

Following is the text of a message dated 28 August from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to Gabriel Valdes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile. The message was transmitted through the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations.

Original Spanish Text

"Hago llegar a Vuestra Excelencia y por su intermedio al Gobierno y pueblo de Chile mi hondo sentimiento de pesar por la nueva tragedia que ha azotado recientemente a su país. Este nuevo desastre, que se ha producido tan poco tiempo después del terremoto de marzo pasado, es una nueva y dura prueba para el esforzado pueblo de Chile.

"He pedido al Representante Residente de la Junta de Asistencia Técnica y Director de Programas del Fondo Especial en Chile que se ponga en contacto con los servicios pertinentes de su Gobierno para determinar la mejor forma en que los expertos de Naciones Unidas pueden prestar su ayuda al Gobierno en esta emergencia."

Unofficial English Translation

"May I express to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and the people of Chile my deep sorrow for the new tragedy that has recently affected your country. This new disaster, following so shortly after the earthquake of March 1965, is a new and hard trial for the brave people of Chile.

"I have asked the Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board and Director of ~~Special Fund Programmes~~ in Chile to contact the competent services in your Government to determine the best way in which the United Nations experts can aid your Government in this emergency."

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Press Release SG/SM/352  
SOC/3391  
30 August 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES  
ON OPENING OF WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has received the following letter from the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, regarding the Second United Nations World Population Conference which opened today in Belgrade, Yugoslavia:

"The United States Government recognizes the singular importance of the meeting of the Second United Nations World Population Conference and pledges its full support to your great undertaking.

"As I said to the United Nations in San Francisco, we must now begin to face forthrightly the multiplying problems of our multiplying population. Our Government assures your Conference of our wholehearted support to the United Nations and its agencies in their efforts to achieve a better world through bringing into balance the world's resources and the world's population.

"In extending my best wishes for the success of your Conference, it is my fervent prayer that your great assemblage of population experts will contribute significantly to the knowledge necessary to solve this transcendent problem. Second only to the search for peace, it is humanity's greatest challenge. This week, the meeting in Belgrade carries with it in its work the hopes of mankind."

The Secretary-General has transmitted the letter to the President of the Population Conference for presentation to the participants.

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Press Release SG/SM/353  
L/1443  
31 August 1965

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON 31 AUGUST

I am gratified to announce that, with the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the United States of America, the amendments to the Charter adopted in General Assembly resolution 1991 (XVIII) have taken effect, having been ratified by more than two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

The amendments enlarge the size of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, and alter the number of votes necessary for the taking of decisions by the Security Council.

The General Assembly's resolution called upon Member States to ratify the amendments by 1 September 1965, and this call has been met.

In order to give effect to the amended Charter, elections will be held during the twentieth session of the General Assembly to fill both the new seats and those which will become vacant on 31 December 1965 on the Security Council and on the Economic and Social Council. This accords with the provisions of Assembly resolution 1991 (XVIII), which provides that elections to fill old and new seats should be held on the same occasion. In accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the term of office of the members of the Councils will begin on 1 January 1966. I have consulted with the candidates for the forthcoming elections to the Councils, and they are in agreement with the foregoing.

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