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22/06/1959 - 04/08/1961

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FILE 5

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UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 28 July 1961

THROUGH:

FILE NO.:

FROM: W.A.B. Hamilton *WABH*

SUBJECT: Mohammed Abdelkrim EL - MESTIRI -- letter from
Ambassador Lodge

1. You asked for advice as to your reply to Ambassador Lodge.
2. In the first place, we do owe EL-Mestiri our apologies for not having acknowledged his application -- through an oversight which I hope and believe is rare. But we had studied the application and had a couple of reservations: the candidate's assessment of his English as being weak, which would restrict his placement to a certain extent; and his apparent slant towards questions which might more properly be considered within the sphere of UNESCO. In view, however, of the Ambassador's warm praise of EL-Mestiri and his lack of reference to any language difficulty, we have checked unofficially with the Tunisian Delegation, who report that he is excellent but seriously doubt that he could be spared from his own service. Nevertheless, we are asking the TAB Resident Representative in Tunisia to take up the question there and to advise us as to the next step.
- 3. I am attaching a draft statement which you may wish to incorporate into your reply to Ambassador Lodge.

DRAFT

(Information for Ambassador Lodge in response to his letter to the Secretary-General of 12 July 1961)

I am very glad that you wrote to me about El-Mestiri. We had received his application, but as is often the case with summaries of this type, it was not particularly illuminating. With the additional information provided by you, we immediately began negotiations with the Tunisian Government which I hope will lead to El-Mestiri's appointment to the staff, provided he can be spared from his own service. This is, of course, one of our principal problems in recruitment from the newly independent states — their own pressing need for trained and experienced personnel and consequent and understandable reluctance to release such people for even short tours of duty.

Turner's memo on recruitment of an
internal auditor from Scandinavia
through personal representation of DH

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Personal "R"
Rüssel,

TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 23 June 1959

FROM: Bruce R. Turner, Controller

BR.T.

FILE NO.: _____

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION: _____

SUBJECT: Recruitment of an internal auditor

1. You will recall that during my recent discussions with you concerning problems affecting the Office of the Controller, I referred particularly to the urgent need of strengthening the Internal Audit Service. Specifically, I expressed the view that the problem was one of concentrating much less on quantity and much more on quality, and that our immediate objective in this regard was to recruit - preferably on a secondment basis - one or two experienced and competent auditor-accountants at approximately a P-4 level. In the interests both of ensuring the right kind of internal financial controls, and equally of developing the type of internal audit programme that will command the confidence and respect of the Board of External Auditors, the importance of supplementing the present professional staff is one that I cannot over-emphasize.

2. Our manning table arrangements from an overall viewpoint anticipate the possibility, even during 1959, of adding two P-4 posts to the present effective strength of the Internal Audit Service. A careful review of promotional possibilities inside the house have not revealed any instance of an existing P-3 staff member who possesses the qualifications, and type of experience which, in my judgment, as well as that of the Acting Chief of the Internal Audit Service, and the Chief of the Accounts Division, are essential if the commitments we have made to the External Auditors are to be satisfactorily carried out.

3. During the past year or so the Office of Personnel have made strenuous recruitment efforts, but to date, after careful screening of some 200 applications, have only been able to come up with one likely-looking P-4 candidate - a Dane - whose recruitment is to be dealt with by the Appointments and Promotion Board this week.

...../

4. You were good enough to intimate your willingness to make personal representations with a view to securing the services of a qualified Scandinavian auditor (preferably a Swede or Norwegian) and you asked in this connection that I furnish you with a brief job description indicative of the nature and scope of the responsibilities envisaged. I hope that the attached description will fulfill this purpose.

.....

5. Our hope would be that if the right type of person can be seconded, arrangements could be made for him to be seconded as a government official for a two-to-four-year period of service. Again, if we could secure a really first-rate person he would become one of two senior auditors, immediately under Mr. Kristoffersen, who, in the absence of Mr. Romano, has taken over as Acting Chief, and whom I would wish to confirm in this position, as I firmly believe that in spite of his relative lack of grade and seniority, he has the knowledge, experience and imagination to do a first-class job. The fact that he has excellent personal and official relations with members of the Board is a not unimportant consideration.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Auditor (Grade Level P-4) Internal Audit Service, Office of Controller,
Headquarters, New York

Duties:

Under the over-all supervision of the Chief of the Internal Audit Service, carries major responsibility for supervision of professional staff, gives assistance in the planning and direction of the Audit Programme, and performs at a high level the more complex assignments.

The Audit Programme ranges from that of governmental accounts to commercial accounts and includes constructive accounting.

Qualifications:

University degree including higher accountancy, or its equivalent. Broad knowledge of public and commercial accounting, financial inspection and auditing, together with substantial experiences at the administrative level.

Fluency in English is required and a working knowledge of French and/or German is desirable.

DH's letter to M.S.A. Baig, Foreign Secretary,
of Pakistan - giving reasons for not being
able to provide USG post to Pakistan (from
Asian quota).

22 June 1959

Dear Mr. Baig,

I thank you for your letter of 12 June. As you will remember I had an opportunity to interview Mr. Said Hasan, who was recommended by the President for a high-ranking post in the United Nations. As you also will remember, I made it clear to the President that no post at an Under-Secretary level was likely to be available for a Pakistan citizen within the foreseeable future.

The only post that might fit into the picture was the one of Deputy Executive Secretary of ECAFE. In the light of Mr. Hasan's present position - a fact stressed by the President himself - and the other relevant circumstances, I did not feel that I could offer this post to him. We will keep his name in mind, but I am sure you appreciate that the only right thing for me to do is, as I have done here, to point out that there is small likelihood that we will find an opening in the United Nations Secretariat for him.

As regards specifically the posts of Under-Secretaries at Headquarters, only two such posts are, in principle, available for Asians, apart from the post held by China as a permanent member of the Security Council. For the past two years only one of these posts has been at my disposal and it has been held by a Pakistani. You will appreciate that it was not possible for me to continue with the same nationality. For that reason I moved the Indian, Mr. Narasimhan, over from Bangkok, where he was Executive Secretary of ECAFE, and gave his assignment there to a Burmese with a Pakistani as Deputy Executive Secretary. With an Indian as an incumbent of one of the two Under-Secretary posts available at Headquarters, it is obvious that the other Asian post, when filled, should be held by somebody from a different part of the Asian world.

With kind regards,

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Mr. M.S.A. Baig,
Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations,
Karachi, Pakistan.

Tavares de Sá's reports on his visits to:

1. USSR to recruit personnel for OPI
2. The Congo to appraise and reorganize
OPI office in Leo

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UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 4 August 1961

FROM: H. Tavares de Sá *HTS*
Under-Secretary for the OPI

FILE NO.: _____

SUBJECT: Trip to Soviet Union

My reception in the Soviet Union was courteous and cordial ~~but~~ from beginning to end, starting in a minor key and gradually gaining more resonance. As the days went by my presence seemed to be acknowledged in more significant spheres. On the second day after my arrival I asked to be taken to the Hall of Writers where discussions were being conducted with the participation of many of the distinguished foreign guests in Moscow at the time for the Film Festival before an audience which included a number of top ranking Soviet intellectuals. I decided to ask to address the meeting and made before them a short and factual statement on the purposes and activities of our Department within the framework of UN activities pointing out specifically what we have been trying to do in the information field in the under-developed areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Apparently, this was well received and short excerpts with photographs were published the following day in the special publication relating to developments regarding the Festival. A day later there was a reception at the Kremlin to which I was invited and where Mr. Kuznetsov, First Soviet Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, came up and greeted me with marked cordiality. I then presented my respects to the Soviet Minister of Culture, Mme. Furtseva; about half an hour later I was told that Mr. Adjubei, Editor-in-Chief of Izvestia and son-in-law of Mr. Krushchev, wanted to talk to me. I had a long and most cordial exchange with him.

Mr. Kuznetsov had suggested that I visit other parts of the Soviet Union and Mr. Danilov, Vice Minister of Culture, spelled out the invitation and insisted that I should avail myself of the opportunity of visiting as much of the country as I could. In view of the

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limitations upon my time, it was finally agreed that I should go to Leningrad and to Georgia as an official guest. The acceptance of the invitation to travel, proffered with such insistent cordiality, obviously made a very good impression and for my part helped me considerably in getting a balanced view of present conditions in the Soviet Union. *Even though I spent some time in Tiflis visiting a champagne factory and sampling its products.* I insisted, however, that before leaving Moscow on these trips I wanted to attend to the question of the candidates which, after all, was the main purpose of my trip. Interviews were then arranged and the results were in my opinion very satisfactory. Apart from the candidates in the professional category which had been proposed by the Soviet Government, there were two other possibilities that I explored on my own that I think could be added to the list, which would bring the participation of Soviet nationals in the Department closer to what is considered the desirable level by the Department of Personnel.

As to the candidate at the D.1 level, I was favourably impressed with Mr. Smirnov, who has been proposed by the Soviet Government. I spent a great deal of time with him mostly under very informal circumstances and have a feeling that he would be a useful addition to our senior staff as a Deputy Director of the Division of External Relations. Smirnov has an extremely nice and pleasant personality, good experience in international affairs and a rare capacity for grasping the other fellow's point of view.

My feeling is that we have now solved the problem of participation of Soviet nationals in OPI and that we are getting a group of people with very high professional qualifications.

After having settled the problem of the candidates, I devoted the balance of my time, both in Moscow and during the two excursions, to meeting as many representative people as possible with emphasis, of course, in the fields of journalism, cinema, radio and television. The attached list will give some idea of the range of personalities with whom I came into contact.

..../....

I returned convinced that there is quite a great deal of scope for our work in the Soviet Union, especially if we concentrate on establishing and cultivating relations with the people listed and others like them. There is a great deal more esteem and interest - and indeed I might add deference - for the United Nations than can be surmised when one looks at the picture from outside. Moreover, on professional and technical levels it is possible in my opinion to establish friendly intercourse and find a common language.

Trip to the Congo

Our information service in the Congo badly needed a reappraisal and overhaul which could only be achieved after I had been there. I believe the moment was well-chosen, for on the one hand we were changing our information team at the higher level with King Gordon and Paul Jankowski being replaced by Norman Ho and Oscar Faura. On the other hand, the whole context of the Congo operation was undergoing a significant change as you pointed out in your statement accepting Ambassador Dayal's resignation and designating Dr. Sture Linner as United Nations Officer-in-Charge in the Congo. May I say at this point what a deep impression I received from Linner, who was good enough to give me an inordinate amount of his very valuable time. He is, in my opinion, a person of the highest calibre and is doing a truly remarkable job under the most difficult and exasperating conditions; I return from the Congo feeling quite optimistic.

As regards our information activities, a basic step was taken when Linner and I agreed that our whole information team should be transferred from their exile several kilometres away from UN Headquarters and lodged in the Royale. This was a condition sine qua non for efficient operation and for obtaining the necessary and indispensable daily contact between the OPI personnel on the one hand and Dr. Linner and his senior aides on the other. The move has now been completed and OPI has been assigned a block of offices located together on the third floor of the Royale building. In addition to adequate office space,

...../.....

OPI has been provided with ample facilities for storage, filing, mimeographing, and radio monitoring operations and a future dark room for our photographers.

Along with this physical integration of information services within the whole Congo operation under the direction of Dr. Linner, I established a very clear line of authority within the OPI team itself. Norman Ho is the man in charge of our whole team and directly responsible, with the clear understanding that he works in the closest cooperation and under the daily guidance of Dr. Linner.

Dr. Linner was also very anxious, and rightly so, to have some sort of direct contact with the local population. The opening of a library had been discussed, but I suggested as a better alternative the establishment of a mobile OPI unit mounted on a truck which could serve not only as a small library to distribute UN material but also for the showing of films and the broadcasting of programmes. The suggestion was accepted with enthusiasm and is now in the process of being implemented. Finally, we are now engaged in improving the editorial and graphic presentation of Tom Tom and widening its scope and impact.

Sir Hugh Foot's cable and letter to DH
offering his service to UN - after
completion of his assignment as Governor
of Cyprus - and DH's cabled reply

Encl

DNV

TRAVELLERS' CLUB
FALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.
WHITEHALL 8688.

14th September, 1960.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary General,
United Nations,
New York,
United States.

U)

Jean MR Hammarskjold,

I am more than grateful for the extremely kind reply which you sent me on the 10th September. After I had sent the cable I felt very guilty about worrying you personally at a time like this, but as I read the recent news from Africa I felt that possibly I might be of some small help to you in these most anxious and difficult days - and that the least that I could do would be to show my admiration for your great efforts by telling you that I am more than ready to help in any way I can.

Like so many other people all over the world I feel sure that all our hopes for the future are dependent on the United Nations and the inspiring lead which you are giving, and I should dearly like to be of some assistance to you.

Continued....

TRAVELLERS' CLUB
PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.
WHITEHALL 8688.

I beg that you should not think of replying to this and I promise not to worry you personally again, but I enclose a note which your staff might bear in mind in case some opportunity arises for me to make some contribution in the future.

With warmest good wishes,

*Yours sincerely,
Hugh Foot*

Hugh Foot

NOTE ON THE APPLICATION FROM
SIR HUGH FOOT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY
SERVICE WHICH HE CAN RENDER TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

Early this month I sent the following cable to
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

"Respectfully offer to perform any task for
United Nations in Africa or elsewhere. Have
just finished my assignment as Governor of
Cyprus having completed thirty years work
in Middle East, Africa and West Indies.
All the countries in which I have worked
including Nigeria are now self-governing
or about to be. All my working life has
been given to preparing Colonial territories
for self-government and independence.
Have considered other offers but would prefer
to work for United Nations. Glad to serve
temporarily or otherwise in any capacity
whatever.

Hugh Foot"

Mr. Hammarskjold was kind enough to send the
following reply.

"I am most appreciative of your kind offer to
serve the United Nations. For the present I
do not quite see in which way your wide
experience can be adequately utilized but I
am glad to know of your availability and will

Continued...

communicate with you again when the time seems ripe. Highest regards.

Dag Hammarskjold."

I am at present on leave after completing my assignment as Governor of Cyprus. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has informed me that in the future there may be another post under the Colonial Office for which my name will be considered, but that no suitable vacancy is likely to arise for some little time to come. Meanwhile one or two other offers have been put to me, but I should prefer to work for the United Nations.

My leave continues until November and I have arranged to visit Nigeria at the end of this month at the invitation of the Nigerian Government to be present during the Independence Celebrations. I have also tentatively arranged to carry out a lecture tour in the United States in January, February and March of 1961. Under these arrangements I should arrive in the United States about the middle of January, and I would then hope to have an opportunity of discussing with United Nations officials the question whether there is likely to be any opportunity for me to work for the United Nations in future.

I certainly should not expect a high position, and I confirm that I should be glad to serve the United Nations temporarily or otherwise in any capacity whatever.

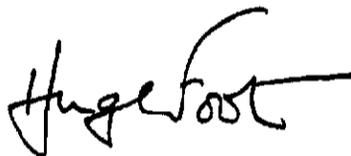
Continued...

I realise that in the Middle East and in Africa and in the Caribbean (the areas I know from practical experience) it may be difficult for the United Nations to make use of the services of an Englishman who has been all his life associated with colonial administration. But this disadvantage may be out-weighed by the fact that it is known that in all the territories where I have worked I have helped to establish self-government and independence.

I believe that I could be of most use either in the Middle East or in Africa.

As far as the Middle East is concerned I have many friends amongst the Arabs and I have a knowledge of Arabic (I passed the Higher Standard Examination in Arabic in Jerusalem in 1942), and I have also friends amongst the Israelis from the time when I worked in Palestine before the War. My experience in Cyprus~~e~~ has given me opportunities of working closely with Greeks and Turks.

I was Chief Secretary to the Nigerian Government from 1947 to 1950, and was Chairman of the Commission which drew up the first Federal Constitution of Nigeria; and I acted as Governor of Nigeria on two occasions. I was also Chief Secretary to the British Military Government in Cyrenaica in 1943.



Hugh Foot

14th September, 1960.

Travellers Club,
Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.

Letters from Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia
transmitting c.v. of Mr. Vladimir Velebit -
Governor for Yugoslavia in the IBRD

Encl



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
854 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

5 May 1960

Excellency,

With reference to our conversation of 22 April, I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, a biographical sketch of Mr. Vladimir Velebit.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Vidic' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dobrivoje Vidic
Permanent Representative of the F.P.R.
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York 17, New York

VLADIMIR VELEBIT, Doctor of Law, Under-Secretary in the Federal Committee for Foreign Trade (by Western terminology, corresponds to the Ministry for Foreign Trade), Belgrade, Major General (res.).

Born in 1907 in Zadar, Serb. High School education in Varazdin, Cakovac, Zagreb and Vienna. Graduated in Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. After graduation from the Faculty of Law, he served in the courts in Nis, Leskovac and Pristena, and as solicitor in Zagreb.

In the National Liberation Movement from the beginning of the war in 1941. Worked with the Supreme Command of the National Liberation Army in Yugoslavia. Since December 1943, member of the Military Mission of the Supreme Command of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia in Egypt and Italy. In 1944, head of Military Mission in London.

After the liberation, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Federal Committee on Tourism and Hotel Industry, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Ambassador of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia in Italy and the United Kingdom, Under-Secretary in the Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs (in charge of international economic relations).

Mr. Velebit has a deep knowledge and extensive experience in the fields of national and international economics. He has participated in many international negotiations concerning economic and political affairs.



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
854 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

18 May 1960

Excellency,

With reference to my letter of 5 May concerning Mr. Vladimir Velebit, I would like to correct a statement in the biographical sketch of Mr. Velebit which I enclosed concerning his present position.

In the course of translation, a mistake was made. The present title of Mr. Velebit is Vice-Chairman of the Federal Committee for Foreign Trade.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Vidic', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dobrivoje Vidic
Permanent Representative of the F.P.R.
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York 17, New York



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
854 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

23 June 1960

Excellency,

In letters of 5 and 18 May 1960 addressed to you, Ambassador Vidic submitted to you information pertaining to the curriculum vitae of Mr. Vladimir Velebit. In the absence of Ambassador Vidic, I would like to submit to you the following additional information.

Mr. Velebit served as the head of the Yugoslav delegation to the sessions of the European Economic Commission in 1957 and 1958. He is the Governor for Yugoslavia in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He took part in the meetings of the Bank in 1950. During 1950-1951 Mr. Velebit negotiated with the International Bank the first investment loan to Yugoslavia.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Osman Djikic
Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the F.P.R.
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York 17, New York