

es Briefings and Press Conferences of the Sec. - Gen. U Thant
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August to December 1966

5 August 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramzes Nassif was asked if there was any comment on the statement made by Louis Ignacio-Pinto (Dahomey) after the appointment of 12 African representatives with the Secretary-General at 11 a.m. Mr. Ignacio-Pinto, chairman of the group, had told correspondents that the group had made a demarche to the Secretary-General on the question of his availability for a second term.

Mr. Nassif said, in reply, that these ambassadors* had called upon the Secretary-General at 11 a.m. on behalf of the African Group. It was true that they had requested that the Secretary-General be available for a second term. The Secretary-General had been "quite touched" by this demonstration, had expressed deep gratitude to them, and had promised to take their support into consideration. He stood by his (public) statement to make his decision known by the end of August.

On other questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no comment on the proposals by the United States Secretary of State Rusk, and by India, for a strengthening of the International Control Commission for Viet-Nam.

Cesar Ortiz said that a release would be issued on a small shooting incident in Cyprus, where firing had broken out on 4 August in the area of Ambelikou village, west of Lefka. Two members of the National Guard had been wounded. The UNFICYP Lefka commander had succeeded in negotiating a cease-fire.

Mr. Ortiz also informed correspondents of a briefing scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, 9 August, by D.C. Gunasekera, project manager of the Asian Development Bank. An updated background note on the Bank was being issued today.

* The members of the group were representatives of Dahomey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Arab Republic.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

8 August 1966

Cesar Ortiz said that the three appointments -- the Ambassadors of Finland, New Zealand and the United States -- were at the request of those concerned.

He announced that a background release would be issued today on the Asian Development Bank.

Asked about the Secretary-General's plans to visit Latin America, as reported in the press yesterday, Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General planned to leave Headquarters on 24 August, and return on 31 August. He would visit Mexico and Chile and while in Santiago dedicate the new Economic Commission for Latin America building. Final details were being worked out and the official announcement would be made in a press release on 16 August.

In reply to a question on whether this visit was linked with discussions on the denuclearization of Latin America, Mr. Nassif said there was no connexion, although he was certain the matter would come up. The invitations were of long standing.

A correspondent asked if it could be assumed that the Secretary-General would make his announcement regarding a second term before he left for Mexico or whether he would make his announcement in Latin America, since he had publicly stated that he would make his decision known by the end of August, Mr. Nassif said he had no instructions on this point but there was no question of the announcement being made anywhere except Headquarters and in view of this visit it might be that the announcement would be made on 1 or 2 September.

Asked if the Secretary-General would be looking for a successor while in Latin America, Mr. Nassif said definitely not, for this would not be proper. In reply to another question he said he understood the procedure for the Secretary-General's announcement would be to let the members of the Security Council know in the first instance and then the decision would be made public to correspondents here.

In reply to a question on the reports that the Bhuddists had protested what was being done in Viet-Nam and asked for the Secretary-General's intervention to save the country, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had read several times of messages being sent from the Bhuddists to him but had never, on any occasion, received them. Asked why this was so, Mr. Nassif said he was replying on his own in suggesting that for some reason the Bhuddists could not get these messages out of the country. Asked if he was implying that the United States was holding them up he said "No". He was just suggesting, he said, that the mail might be held up.

Asked about messages received by the Secretary-General on Saturday, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had received messages from the Peace Education Committee and the American Friend Service Committee together with a message from Miss Kumiko Kosasa from Japan transmitting thousands of signatures, on the anniversary of Hiroshima, asking that all nuclear weapons be banned. George Sherry of the Secretary-General's office had received the signatures on behalf of the Secretary-General.

In reply to a question, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had no comment on the Thai proposal for an Asian meeting on Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General had no comment on the reports of the Bhuddists request to him since he could not comment without seeing the text.

Asked if anything had been received on a report from Santo Domingo on the arrest of supporters of Juan Bosch by Dominican Air Force personnel, Mr. Ortiz said he had not seen any cable on this.

He said there were as yet no speakers listed for this afternoon's Security Council meeting. While he had heard the rumour about the Council's not meeting this afternoon, he said as far as the Secretariat was concerned the meeting was still scheduled at this moment.

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10 August 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz told correspondents that all the Secretary-General's appointments today, including the 6 p.m. appointment with Senator Robert Kennedy, were at the request of those concerned. A number of questions were asked about the Kennedy appointment, such as when it had been made, through what channels, and whether a reason had been given. Mr. Ortiz said he would try to find out.

Questions were also asked about the Chicago Daily News story of yesterday, and a similar one in today's New York Post, to the effect that the Secretary-General had decided not to take a second term.

Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had no comment on these stories. The situation remained as stated earlier: the Secretary-General would announce his decision at the beginning of September.

Further questions were asked as to whether the Secretary-General had made his decision but had not yet announced it, whether the situation in Viet-Nam had affected his decision, and whether it could be said that he had not made the statement to the African delegations which was reported in the Chicago Daily News story.

Mr. Ortiz said that he did not know what the Secretary-General had said to the African representatives. The situation was as he had stated it, and there was no contradiction. One correspondent asked if the Secretary-General was aware of the fact that the Secretary-General's decision was "one of the interesting personal mysteries of the era", inasmuch as it had first been stated that the announcement would be made in June, then in July, then in August, and now in September. The correspondent asked if the Secretary-General wanted to encourage speculation? Mr. Ortiz replied that he was sure the Secretary-General was aware of the views of the correspondents and others.

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On another subject, Mr. Ortiz was asked about the Secretary-General's attitude to the proposal for a United Nations investigation in South Arabia. He said that the Secretary-General had not stated his attitude and would prefer to wait until the Security Council acted on the matter.

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11 August 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had received a letter this morning, signed by the representatives of 35 African States, asking that the item on South West Africa be considered as a matter of priority by the General Assembly.

Asked for comment on the Malaysia-Indonesia agreement, Mr. Ortiz gave the following: "The Secretary-General is gratified at the news of the ending of the strained relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia. Among other reasons, the Secretary-General believes in close and friendly relationships between States".

Asked if the Secretary-General was sending messages to the two States, Mr. Ortiz said he would inquire. There was nothing new on reports that Indonesia was making contacts to rejoin the United Nations. One correspondent then said that, earlier today, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had announced in Paris the receipt of a letter from the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, indicating that Indonesia wished to resume its membership. Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General knew of this development but had no comment at this moment.*

Mr. Ortiz then said that shooting incidents had taken place on 7, 8 and 9 August in several areas in the Lefka region on the northwest coast of Cyprus. UNFICYP had intervened actively in each case to stop the shooting, and was continuing its efforts to prevent further outbreaks.

To questions about the appointment of Senator Robert Kennedy, Mr. Ortiz said that yesterday's appointment had been cancelled at the Senator's request because the Senator said he was unable to leave Washington at that time. He had said he wished to see the Secretary-General next week.

* Later, the following statement was read: "The Secretary-General is delighted at the news of the resumption of active participation by Indonesia in the work of UNESCO. Any further steps in this direction will, the Secretary-General is sure, be welcomed by the members of the U.N."

A correspondent asked for comment on the announcement that the United States Marines were sending 50,000 men into the Mekong delta, and "whatever happened to Eugene Black?" Other questioners asked whether there was anything new on the Cambodian border proposal, whether the naming of Ambassador de Ribbing could be confirmed, and whether there had been any recent contacts with Cambodia. Mr. Ortiz said he had no information on these points. To another question, he said that the memorandum reported to have been sent to the Secretary-General by the Buddhists of South Viet-Nam had not been received.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

19 August 1966

Cesar Ortiz said that Ambassador Herbert de Ribbing had arrived in New York last night. He would lunch with the Secretary-General today and would also see the representatives of Cambodia and Thailand. Mr. de Ribbing was not in a position to see the Press now and there was as yet no indication when he would go to the area.

In reply to a question, Ramses Nassif said today's appointments with the United Kingdom, United Arab Republic and Yemen were in accord with the Security Council consensus. Discussions were in the preliminary stage and the Secretary-General had nothing further to say at this stage.

Asked about the appointment with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Mr. Nassif said Ethiopia would be issuing its own press release. He was asked to read out the press release, which stated that the Emperor had urged the Secretary-General to accept a second term.

Asked if the Secretary-General agreed, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General "appreciated this message very much".

In reply to a question on whether India had reacted to the Pakistani memorandum charging that India was about to set off an underground nuclear explosion, Mr. Nassif said he had no knowledge of India's reaction. He repeated an answer from an earlier briefing that the Secretary-General, as requested, had sent the Pakistani memorandum to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, and as far as he knew, this was where the matter stood.

In reply to questions on whether there was anything new on the Iraqi pilot or Indonesia, Mr. Ortiz said "No" to both questions.

Asked to be more specific about when the Secretary-General would hold a press conference, Mr. Nassif said his own guess was about the middle of September.

Regarding the date of the Secretary-General's statement on a second term, Mr. Nassif said he expected to be able to be more specific about this before the Latin American trip. He said, in reply to a question, that he stood by previous replies, that the announcement would be made on either 1 or 2 September.

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24 August 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at 11:45 a.m. today, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General's announcement of his decision regarding another term would be made at 12 noon on Thursday, 1 September, in the form of a written statement. In reply to questions, he said that the Secretary-General would not make a tape of the announcement for television. All delegations would receive the announcement that morning by messenger.

Several correspondents expressed hope that the announcement could be made a little in advance, embargoed for noon. Mr. Nassif said he would see if it could be done this way, perhaps at 11:45 a.m.

On other matters, Cesar Ortiz said that Herbert de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Representative for Cambodia and Thailand, had left at 10 a.m. today for Paris, enroute to Bangkok. It was envisaged that Mr. de Ribbing would go to Phnom Penh from there, and then return to New York after about two weeks for further discussions. Then, in mid-September, he would return to the area and establish himself there on a continuing basis.

Mr. Ortiz said, with regard to the Secretary-General's departure at 7 p.m. today for Latin America, that any statements made at the airport would be telephoned to the Central Desk. The Secretary-General was expected to leave the United Nations building about 5 or 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Ortiz said that the Committee of 33 on peace-keeping was tentatively scheduled to meet at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 September. The Working Group of the Outer Space Committee, regarding an international outer space conference, was tentatively scheduled to meet at 10:30 a.m. that same day. There was a possibility that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee would reconvene on 12 September.

Mr. Ortiz also drew attention to a press release, to be issued today, on the opening yesterday of the international seminar on apartheid in Brasilia.

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Asked about the introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report, Mr. Ortiz said that it was promised for around 6 September, and would be issued with an embargo of four or five days.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Nassif said that he was not aware of any other travel plans for the Secretary-General following the Latin American trip and that the Secretary-General did not wish to comment on Richard Nixon's endorsement of an Asian conference on Viet-Nam.

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Subsequently, Ben Skou, press attache of the Danish delegation, informed correspondents that Karl-Frederik Hasle (Denmark) had seen the Secretary-General this morning, on behalf of the Nordic delegations, to tell him that the Nordic Foreign Ministers, meeting in Aalborg, Denmark, had "expressed their confidence in the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, and hoped he would accept reappointment". The full text of the ~~commu~~nnique would be issued later today.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

25 August 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General was now in Mexico City. Mr. Rolz-Bennett had telephoned Mr. Narasimhan here to say that they had had "a splendid flight" to Mexico and that everything was "going very well indeed". Herbert de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Representative for Cambodia and Thailand, had left Paris for Bangkok. A question was asked as to whether Mr. de Ribbing would be in Phnom Penh at the same time as President de Gaulle of France. Mr. Ortiz said he would check.

Several questions were asked about the way in which the Secretary-General's announcement on 1 September regarding his decision would be circulated. One correspondent asked if the announcement would be published as a Security Council or General Assembly document. Another asked if delegations would receive their announcements in alphabetical order.

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

26 August 1966

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that a press release would be issued on the Secretary-General's activities yesterday in Mexico City. Today, the Secretary-General was calling on the President of Mexico.

Mr. Ortiz said that a cable had been received from the Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, expressing appreciation for the Secretary-General's kind sentiments on the occasion of the earthquake which had struck his country and thanking him for the generous offer of assistance, on the part of the United Nations.

A telegram had also been received, he said, from 173 members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. In their message, sent from Washington yesterday, and addressed to the Secretary-General, they said:

"We want you to know that we strongly endorse and support the position of President Johnson, Secretary Rusk and Ambassador Goldberg, with regard to your continuing on as Secretary-General of the United Nations. We are distressed at press reports that you may decide not to undertake further service in this important post, and we hope very much that you will stay on, if possible, for a full five years".

In reply to questions, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had been informed about the telegram. Asked if the reference to a five-year term was the first, Mr. Ortiz said he believed this was the first time it had been mentioned in this way. Asked if the Secretary-General had received any letters asking him not to run, from the public or from anyone else, Mr. Ortiz said he was not aware of any such letters and did not think there were any. Asked how many cards had been received as a result of the poster campaign, Mr. Ortiz said he would check. Asked if messages similar to those of recent days had been received when Trygve Lie was Secretary-General, Mr. Ortiz said that that had been "a completely different situation".

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

29 August 1966

Cesar Ortiz drew attention to the various releases that had been issued on the Secretary-General's visit to Latin America and said that a further release would soon be available on his stay in Panama and brief remarks he had made at the airports in Panama City, Lima and Quito.

The text of the Secretary-General's speech at Santiago, dedicating the New ECLA Building, was now available (SG/SM/551).

Replying to questions asked before today's briefing, he said he could confirm that a letter had been received from the Democratic Republic of Korea, signed by the Foreign Minister and dated 22 July. It had been delivered by the Soviet Mission, with a covering letter from Ambassador Fedorenko requesting circulation as an official document. The covering letter was dated 26 August. Mr. Ortiz said that the document would be issued either this afternoon or tomorrow. He was not aware of the contents.

Asked about Ambassador de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia and Thailand, Mr. Ortiz said the latter arrived in the Cambodian capital today. Asked if he would be there when President de Gaulle makes an address on 1 September, Mr. Ortiz said that the Cambodian Head of State had personally invited Mr. de Ribbing to be present at the ceremonies honouring the French Head of State.

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30 August 1966

PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said that the transcript of the Secretary-General's Mexico City press conference would be available, for the record, this afternoon.

He said that the President of Niger, as President of the 14 member Common Afro-Malagasy Organization had sent a memorandum, dated 24 August, to the Secretary-General expressing the hope that he, U Thant, would be available for another term. Also, on 29 August, the Foreign Minister of Nepal had sent a message on behalf of his Government expressing the same hope.

A correspondent (Donald Grant, St. Louis Post-Dispatch) said he understood that the Secretary-General's statement on 1 September would be issued under embargo. Mr. Ortiz said, off the record, that a final decision on the matter rested with the Secretary-General but the current thinking was that the messengers would start delivering the statement to delegations at 10 a.m. that day and correspondents would receive copies at 11 a.m., embargoed for 12 noon.

A number of correspondents expressed the view that such an arrangement would be most useful and preferable to spot release.

Mr. Ortiz said the Secretary-General would return to New York tomorrow at 10:35 p.m. A temporary lid would be put on from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and any remarks the Secretary-General made would be phoned through to the Central News Desk.

He said, in reply to a question, that he had no comment on the Soviet Union letter regarding the appointment of the Special Representative for Cambodia and Thailand (S/7478). Further questioned, he said he would ask the Secretary-General if he had any comment when he returned. He stated that this was not the first time the Soviet Union had made its position clear on the appointment of such missions.

Mr. Ortiz said in reply to another question that he did not know on what date the Secretary-General would hold his press conference.

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1 September 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said that the only statement to be issued by the Secretary-General was the one which correspondents had received at 11 a.m. (This statement was made because the Radio Station of the New York Times was, at 12 noon, carrying a story that the Secretary-General was to issue a personal statement on his plans later today, their copy not having been updated to take into account the release of the statement, issued for spot release at 11 a.m. rather than under a noon embargo because wire agencies had broken the story from delegation sources before 11 a.m.)

Mr. Ortiz said the statement spoke for itself. (Bernard Pesson, Netherlands Radio, said "No".)

He said that 25 messengers had been used to deliver the letter to delegations. The letter, in English, French and Spanish, had been sealed in envelopes at 4 a.m. and given to the messengers at 9 a.m. who had then left the building and started their first delivery at 10 a.m. The delivery had ended at 10:45 a.m. Thirteen of the messengers had gone on foot, 5 by taxi, 5 by United Nations vehicles and 2 for the United Nations building, and each messenger had made four or five deliveries. The last delegation to receive the letter was the Ivory Coast, he did not know the first.

Ramses Nassif, in response to a request, then read out the covering letters. He said the Secretary-General would not be in today. He would be back at his desk on Tuesday morning.

Asked what was the reaction of members to the Secretary-General's letter (Avram Mezerik, International Review Service) Mr. Nassif said he had no way of knowing.

To a series of questions asked by Darius Jhabvala (Boston Globe), Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General was not at home, he was out of town with friends and he was not prepared to divulge the location or whether it was in New York State. He did however confirm that he was in the United States.

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In reply to a question on whether the Security Council was scheduled to meet, Mr. Ortiz said he understood that Council members would hold consultations regarding the letter but to the Secretariat's knowledge no meeting had been scheduled (this reply was based on guidance from the Office of the President of the Security Council for September, the USSR).

Mr. Person (Netherlands Radio) then quoted from the Secretary-General's statement emphasizing the words "not to offer myself" and the fact that the Security Council could make "unfettered" decision. Did this mean, he asked, that U Thant was one of the persons the Security Council could recommend to the General Assembly.

Mr. Nassif said the spokesmen were trying to be perfectly honest and could only say they had nothing to add to the statement and could not interpret what was a perfectly clear statement.

Mr. Person said it was not clear, it was a little bit ambiguous and Mr. Nassif said that was the correspondent's interpretation.

Mr. Ortiz suggested that "its ambiguousness is its clarity" and Mr. Person said that Mr. Ortiz was therefore agreeing that it was ambiguous. Amid laughter Mr. Ortiz said he was not agreeing to such an interpretation, he was merely interpreting the correspondent's interpretation of the original statement.

Asked why the Secretary-General had suddenly decided not to come in today and changed from the original plan (Eileen Lukas, Hearst Headline Service) Mr. Nassif said there had been no original plan to come in today that he knew of. The Secretary-General had arrived from Chile at 10:50 p.m. last night and there and then decided to take the rest of the week off.

Mr. Ortiz said the confusion might have arisen because Miss Lukas had yesterday asked if the Secretary-General would come in to the office from the airport and had been told "NO". Asked at that time whether the Secretary-General would come in today Mr. Ortiz, who had not been aware of any decision by the Secretary-General to leave town, had replied that he assumed so.

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

2 September 1966

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said, in reply to questions, that the Secretary-General might hold a press conference around 15 September. The introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report was expected late next week, and would be issued with a four or five day embargo. The Secretary-General was now spending the weekend with friends out of town, but was in touch with the office. Asked if the Secretary-General had any more travel plans, Mr. Nassif said, "Not to my knowledge".

A question was asked as to whether the Secretary-General had a preference as to a successor. Mr. Nassif replied that this question had been asked at the press conference in Mexico City, and the Secretary-General had answered that he did not feel it proper for him to state any views on the matter. Another correspondent pointed out that the Secretary-General had said, at the UNCA luncheon, that he would help find a successor. Did this still stand? he asked.

A question was asked as to whether the Secretary-General had to be from a Member State. Could he be a Swiss, for instance? Cesar Ortiz said it was to be assumed that the Secretary-General would come from a Member State, although the Charter did not specify.

Asked if any Heads of State would be attending the General Assembly session, Mr. Ortiz said that so far there were unofficial reports that the President of the Philippines, the King of Morocco and General Ne Win of Burma would be among those attending. To other questions, he said that there was nothing new on Indonesia nor had there been "any more resignations" in the Secretariat.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

6 September 1966

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General had addressed "a note of regret" at the assassination of Hendrik Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa. The note was delivered to Matthys I. Botha, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations. The note would be issued as a press release.

(Later, Mr. Powell read the text of the note to the correspondents.)

Mr. Powell stated that the Introduction to the Secretary-General's Annual Report to the General Assembly would be issued before the end of this week. He would be able to tell tomorrow exactly when. The text would be issued with a four or five days' embargo.

Ramses Nassif announced that General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, the Revolutionary Government of the Union of Burma, would visit the United Nations on Saturday, 10 September. Ne Win would arrive at the United Nations building at noon, and the Secretary-General would give a State luncheon in his honour. In answer to a question, he added that Ne Win was a Head of State.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif stated, was back at his desk.

Mr. Nassif was asked to repeat for the benefit of correspondents what were the Secretary-General's answers to questions put to him at an impromptu meeting with the press, when he arrived for work this morning, in the Secretariat lobby.

First, one correspondent asked what was the Secretary-General's reply when he was asked to comment on the assassination of the Prime Minister of South Africa. Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had commented that "any violence of any kind was deplorable". Mr. Powell added that the Secretary-General had used virtually the same phrase in his note to Mr. Botha of South Africa.

In reply to a question, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had confirmed to correspondents that he would give a press conference before the opening of the

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twenty-first session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had also stated that "perhaps some clarification might be needed with regard to his statement" on the question of a second term as Secretary-General, although that statement "spoke for itself".

There was no news regarding a Security Council meeting on the question, Mr. Nassif added.

Asked about the procedure for Indonesia's return to the United Nations, Mr. Nassif referred to a statement, made by the Secretary-General some time ago, to the effect that if he were to receive an official communication from Indonesia indicating its desire to return, this would facilitate such a procedure. Mr. Nassif recalled the Secretary-General's remarks that if such a communication were received, no formal action would be required. The Secretary-General had made this statement some time before his Latin American visit, and had repeated it at his press conference in Mexico City.

In answer to another question regarding the flying of flags at half mast on the occasion of the death of world leaders, Mr. Powell said the procedure was that the United Nations flag was flown at half mast only in the case of Heads of State. The flag had been flown at half mast in the case of some world leaders at the discretion of the Secretary-General. He could definitely say that it would not be flown at half mast in the case of Mr. Verwoerd of South Africa.

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

7 September 1966

William Powell said Francis W. Carpenter of the United States Mission had asked him to announce that he would hold his press briefing today at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Powell announced that the Secretary-General would hold a press conference on Monday, 19 September, at 11 a.m., in Conference Room 4.

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General would go to the airport at 12:45 today to greet the Chief of State of Burma, General Ne Win, an "old friend". In response to a question, he said General Ne Win would come to Headquarters at noon on Saturday, 10 September, for a luncheon to be given in his honour by the Secretary-General.

To another question, Mr. Powell said the United Nations had no information on the plans of Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik, other than what it had seen in the press release of the Philippine Mission yesterday.

Asked whether the Secretary-General might give a clarification of his statement on his term of office at the press conference or at a luncheon to be given by the Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Scholarship Fund on 15 September, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had already stated that, while perhaps there might be a clarification, the statement stood by itself. Mr. Nassif added that he was in no position to comment further on the matter now.

Queried as to whether the Secretary-General would be available for questions from the floor at the luncheon on 15 September, Mr. Nassif said there would be no questions at that time.

On this same point, Otto Leichter (German Press Agency) said that, as Chairman of the Scholarship Fund, he could vouch for the fact that the Secretary-General could attend the luncheon with the assurance that no one would ask questions. He (Dr. Leichter) would not permit questions, he added.

To a question about the introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report on the work of the Organization, Mr. Powell said that the document was in its final editing stages, and he hoped it would be available Friday with an embargo for about next Wednesday, 14 September. He added that he would have a firmer schedule tomorrow.

Mr. Powell said he would check into the timing of the addendum to the annotated agenda and of the list of high officials attending the Assembly.

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8 September 1966

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs, would give a briefing for correspondents at 12 noon on Friday, 16 September, on the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

On other matters, he said that the introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report would be delayed. It would not be available tomorrow, as hoped, but perhaps would be available next Tuesday or Wednesday, 13 or 14 September, with an embargo of several days. No new date had been set for the meeting of the Committee of 33, on peace-keeping. A preliminary list of Foreign Ministers who would attend the General Assembly session included those of the Central African Republic, Dahomey, Gambia, Iraq, Ireland and Turkey. An addendum to the annotated agenda of the Assembly was expected next week.

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had gone by private plane to Albany to speak at a seminar on peaceful change, arranged by the Institute of Man and Science, affiliated with the State University of New York at Albany. There was no prepared text of the address, which would be given at 4 p.m. Arrangements had been made for a live feed from Albany, which would be transmitted over the six-point internal system here. Mr. Narasimhan would also speak briefly at the seminar. The Secretary-General would return to New York tonight.

To a question as to whether the opening of the General Assembly might be postponed, Mr. Powell said he had heard nothing to that effect.

A correspondent asked if the speech of the Secretary-General at the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation luncheon could be put on the six-point internal transmission system, so that those who could not afford \$6 to attend the luncheon would be able to hear the speech. Mr. Powell said that the correspondent would have to take the matter up with the luncheon committee.

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To questions about the official luncheon on Saturday, 10 September, for General Ne Win of Burma, Mr. Nassif said that the guest list would be available tomorrow. The Secretary-General would not have anything to say after the luncheon.

Following the briefing, William Epstein, Chief of the Disarmament Affairs Division, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, gave correspondents, on a not-for-attribution basis, some background information on the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (document A/6390-DC/228), which was released today.

In reply to a question about the Pakistani memorandum alleging that India planned nuclear weapons tests, Mr. Epstein said that it had never officially been put before the conference, as the co-chairmen had decided it would not be appropriate to circulate it as a conference document.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY
DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

9 September 1966

At the regular OPI. press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that details of the visit of General Ne Win, Head of State of Burma, to United Nations Headquarters tomorrow, Saturday, 10 September, would be given in a press release to be issued today. The Secretary-General would go to the airport to meet General Ne Win and his party and would also go to the airport when they left New York. The guest list for the Secretary-General's luncheon in honour of General Ne Win would not be available until tomorrow.

Herbert de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Representative in Cambodia and Thailand, would arrive by air tomorrow evening, and would remain in New York at least until the middle of next week for consultations. He had left Bangkok yesterday after visiting both capitals.

Mr. Powell also said that the Secretary-General would attend this afternoon's closed meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General had sent a message on the occasion of the dedication today of an addition to the International Monetary Fund building in Washington. The Secretary-General's remarks yesterday in Albany, at the seminar on peaceful change, would be transcribed and issued as a press conference release.

In answer to questions, Mr. Powell said that there was nothing new on Indonesia or on a Security Council meeting on the Secretary-General. The only Council meeting now even tentatively scheduled was a closed meeting next week on the Council's report to the General Assembly.

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DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

14 September 1966

William Powell said that the Secretary-General was receiving the Ambassadors of Zambia, Turkey and Romania at their request.

He drew attention to the fact that Sub-Committee I of the Committee of 24 is expected this afternoon to approve its reports on the Portuguese Territories and Southern Rhodesia.

Asked whether, if Indonesia decides to return to the United Nations, it would have to pay its 1965 assessment, Mr. Powell said this would have to be decided by the Assembly. He added, in response to further questions, that the procedure for the return of Indonesia would entail an exchange of letters, not the process which a new Member undergoes. Mr. Powell said that legal points, such as whether the Indonesian representatives could reopen their Mission before presentation of credentials, would have to be looked into.

Ramses Nassif announced that the luncheon which the Secretary-General is having today with Ambassador Fedorenko is one of the series of monthly luncheons given by the President of the Security Council. Replying to a question, he said the Secretary-General regularly attends these luncheons.

Asked about the Secretary-General's reaction to the bombing of North Viet-Nam by 500 American planes, Mr. Nassif said there was nothing to be added to the Secretary-General's well-known views regarding the three-point proposals, which he had enumerated again recently at his Santiago Press Conference.

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15 September 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell informed correspondents of three typographical errors appearing in the Secretary-General's Introduction to the Annual Report, enumerating them in each case.

He announced that Under-Secretary, C.V. Narasimhan would give correspondents a briefing at noon tomorrow on the upcoming General Assembly session.

He said that the Addendum to the Annotated Provisional agenda, containing an item on Chinese representation, will be out tomorrow.

Other announcements concerned the commemorative ceremony on Saturday on the fifth anniversary of the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and today's appointments of the Secretary-General. Mr. Powell, in response to a question asked yesterday, said credentials of Representatives — signed by Head of State, Prime Minister or Foreign Minister — are submitted for each Assembly and placed before the Credentials Committee. Credentials of Permanent Representatives are presented to the Secretary-General himself. In answer to a question, he said that the United Nations has had no word from Indonesia regarding rejoining the Organization.

Ramses Nassif announced that a text of the Secretary-General's remarks at today's UNCA luncheon would be made available as soon as possible afterwards.

Asked about a reported invitation to the Secretary-General to visit Kuwait, he said he wasn't aware of an invitation from that State.

He said nothing was known about Mr. Narasimhan's rumoured resignation from the United Nations.

In response to a further question, Mr. Powell said that the United Nations Mission was still in the Dominican Republic.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

20 September 1966

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General's appointments today were all at the request of the Foreign Ministers and Ambassadors concerned.

He said the speakers on the admission of Guyana at the opening session of the General Assembly today would be the United Kingdom, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Canada; others were also expected to be inscribed on the list of speakers.

Following the admission, the Prime Minister of Guyana will address the Assembly and the President of the General Assembly will hold a Press Conference in Conference Room 4 15 minutes after the Assembly ends.

Noting that he had nothing new on the question of Indonesia's return, Mr. Powell said there was no Indonesian delegation here; but he added that no formal action was required for their re-admission. Informal consultations by the Secretary-General with the Security Council and leaders of regional groups would precede Indonesia's return.

Mr. Nassif was questioned about today's newspaper reports holding the Soviet Union responsible for restraints imposed on the Secretary-General. He said he had no comment to make on newspapers' interpretation of what U Thant told his news conference yesterday. When pressed for clarification after his affirming that what the Secretary-General said had been quite clear, he said that he would be glad to explain U Thant's statement to the correspondent after the briefing.

Mr. Nassif said he had no knowledge to confirm an Australian radio report stating that U Thant would remain as Secretary-General, or that a communication had been received from West Germany.

Asked for comment on the Encyclical peace appeal by the Pope, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General regards it as a great historical document.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

21 September 1966

William Powell announced that the flag-raising ceremony fixed for 3.30 p.m. on behalf of the new Member, Guyana, had been postponed because of inclement weather. Other arrangements for today which he enumerated, included the Assembly President's Press Conference at 2.30 p.m., the Secretary-General's luncheon for President Marcos of the Philippines (the guest list for which was being posted shortly), the list of appointments of the Secretary-General (all at the request of individuals), and the meeting of the General Committee at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. Powell also reiterated details of the United Nations visit by the Philippines' Head of State, including his 3.30 p.m. address to the Assembly, his conversation with U Thant and reception for Chairmen of delegations, their wives and Permanent Representatives.

On the question of Indonesian representation, he said he had nothing on possible Security Council consideration of the country's re-admission; no knowledge of the objections to Indonesia's return reported in today's Press and said that no Indonesians had arrived at the United Nations.

Ramses Nassif was questioned about the proposal made by Senator Mike Mansfield regarding a three-point Viet-Nam withdrawal time-table. He was also asked about reported Hanoi peace feelers.

To the first question, he replied that the Secretary-General had a high regard for the Senator and had read his remarks with appreciation and interest -- and the Secretary General would continue his efforts for a peaceful solution. On the subject of Hanoi peace overtures, he said there was nothing to add to the remarks made by the Secretary-General at his Press Conference two days ago.

A number of questions were asked about the status of Observers at the United Nations. Mr. Powell said this matter was already before the Assembly but could come up in the Sixth Committee. Pressed on the question of whether this was a juridical or political question, Mr. Nassif said this position was made clear by the Secretary-General in his Introduction to the Annual Report.

Mr. Nassif told a questioner that the talks between U Thant and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union covered several international questions, including Viet-Nam.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

22 September 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that among the Secretary-General's appointments today was a meeting at 12:30 p.m. with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Malik. The Foreign Minister would be seeing the President of the General Assembly at 2:30 p.m.

At 10:45 a.m., he continued, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan deposited the instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and at 2:45 p.m. the Republic of Viet-Nam and China would deposit ratifications of the agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank.

In response to questions concerning the return of Indonesia to the United Nations, Mr. Powell said the telegram from Indonesia announcing its desire to return to the United Nations had been circulated as General Assembly and Security Council documents, and the Secretary-General had indicated that he would undertake informal consultations on the question of Indonesia.

Questioned about a reported request for a Security Council meeting from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he said he had nothing on it.*

To further questions about the procedure for Indonesia's re-entry, Ramses Nassif said this would be discussed with the Foreign Minister today.

Mr. Nassif was asked whether the United States had conveyed to the Secretary-General its acceptance of his three-point plan for Viet-Nam proposed earlier this year. He said he had nothing on that, but would seek guidance.

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* Subsequently the request was circulated as Document S/7503.

23 September 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General's appointments had been posted: they were at the request of the respective Ambassadors and the Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone.

All speakers in the Assembly general debate, he continued, were expected to be accommodated before nightfall.

On South West Africa, he said that the Assembly would approve that part of the report of the General Committee which gives priority to South West Africa. The Plenary tomorrow would approve the full agenda, preparing the way for a full debate. Four speakers were listed for this afternoon's Plenary on South West Africa: Ethiopia, Liberia, Pakistan (Foreign Ministers), and Guinea (Permanent Representative).

Mr. Powell said the request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a meeting of the Security Council had been referred to the President of the Council, and the communication received from the Congo was circulated yesterday among Missions. An aide memoire had not been received, and he said that no movement was expected on this question for the moment.

Ramses Nassif said that informal consultations on the question of Indonesia's resumption of all activities within the United Nations were still continuing and no action was expected today.

Mr. Nassif, answering a question about further comment by U Thant on Ambassador Goldberg's speech of yesterday, said that there was no additional comment beyond the one sentence issued yesterday. The Secretary-General feels very strongly that public statements on policy statements made in the Assembly were not helpful, he added.

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27 September 1966

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that Indonesia would resume full participation in the work of the United Nations tomorrow when, as an item of business at the opening of the Assembly, the President of the General Assembly would make a statement and the Indonesian delegation would resume seats on the floor. Mr. Powell said he understood that the Foreign Minister of Indonesia would be present. He added, in response to questions, that the President's statement would be the extent of the procedure involved. A list of members comprising the Indonesian delegation would be issued as soon as possible.

Mr. Powell said there was no word on a Security Council meeting requested by the Democratic Republic of the Congo; if a final decision is reached today it would be announced over the public address system. He also said that a draft resolution on South West Africa was expected to be introduced in the Plenary this afternoon. In this event, copies of the draft resolution would be made available as soon as possible.

Ramses Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General had any comment to make on the reported Manila meeting of Asian Powers and the United States. He replied he had no guidance on this. Asked whether the Secretary-General still adheres to his 3-point Plan for a Viet-Nam peace, Mr. Nassif said he did. Mr. Nassif re-read the portion of the 30 August Santiago statement by the Secretary-General in which he reiterated the three points again.

In response to a question whether Hanoi had replied to the Secretary-General's proposals, Mr. Nassif said there had been no response, either negatively or affirmatively. From this, the Secretary-General concluded that his three points had not been rejected by Hanoi (see press conference of 19 September 1966).

Regarding the announcement of a Papal mission of peace to Viet-Nam, he said the Secretary-General had no knowledge of this and U Thant could not make any comment until he had fuller knowledge of the Pope's plan.

Questioned whether the Secretary-General viewed the Manila meeting of Asian Powers as unrealistic, Mr. Nassif said he had no guidance or instructions on this.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

28 September 1966

William Powell announced that Ambassador Goldberg this morning signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and that the United Arab Republic would sign the Convention at 3:05 p.m. today. The Agreement on the Asian Development Bank would be ratified by Ceylon at 3 p.m. today.

He also said that tomorrow's meeting of the Security Council would be a closed meeting to approve the Council's Report to the General Assembly. A public meeting at 3 p.m. on the complaint made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be held by the Security Council on Friday. The appointments of the Secretary-General, now posted, were all at the request of the Ambassadors or individuals concerned, he added.

Mr. Powell announced that the Foreign Minister of Greece will hold a Press conference at 2:30 p.m. on Monday. At the suggestion of correspondents, who pointed out that they are lunching the Foreign Minister of India on Monday, Mr. Powell said he would try to arrange a later time for the Press conference.

The Indonesian flag, he said, will be flown tomorrow; there would be no ceremony.

Questioned about a demonstration in the public gallery of the General Assembly Hall this morning, Mr. Powell said five women and four men, members of a group calling themselves Youth Against War and Fascism, were ejected by United Nations guards. He said they were not handed over to the police and no charges were being preferred against them.

Asked whether the Fourth Committee will send to the Assembly a resolution on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, Mr. Powell said if the Committee wishes to make a report before Friday and has a resolution ready for the General Assembly, this could be done.

Mr. Powell, in response to a further question, said he had no knowledge of the Congo Foreign Minister attending the Security Council meeting on Friday.

Ramses Nassif, questioned about the Secretary-General's reaction to the Papal peace mission to Viet-Nam, said the Secretary-General does not have enough information to comment on it. To further questions about the Secretary-General's comments on the planned Manila meeting of Asian Powers and the United States peace-feelers from Hanoi, and the speech yesterday by the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had no comment to make.

Asked about the Secretary-General's reaction to the many appeals from the rostrum for the Secretary-General to stay on after the end of the Assembly, Mr. Nassif said he had no comment to make.

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

30 September 1966

At today's regular OPI press briefing, William Powell said there was still not yet a list of speakers for this afternoon's Security Council meeting; but he confirmed that the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo had made a formal request to speak.

Apart from the Press conference of the Foreign Minister of Israel, scheduled for 5 p.m. on Monday, 3 October, the Foreign Minister of Greece would also hold one at 3:45 p.m. on the same day.

The Secretary-General, he stated, had sent a message of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Botswana on the occasion of that country's attainment of independence. The Secretary-General had been represented at the independence celebrations by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Botswana.

Ramses Nassif, correcting information which he had provided yesterday, said that consultations regarding Indonesia's letter communicating that country's desire to resume co-operation with the United Nations were as follows: first, there were consultations between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia; then, there were consultations between the Indonesian Foreign Minister and the President of the General Assembly; finally, the Secretary-General held consultations with the President of the General Assembly. Contrary to what he said yesterday, there were no consultations with members of the Security Council, Mr. Nassif stated.

In answer to several questions regarding the ~~communique~~ issued yesterday by the Security Council and the Secretary-General's brief ~~comments~~* on that ~~communique~~, Mr. Nassif said all he knew was that the Council met and issued a statement and the Secretary-General had made a brief ~~comment~~ on that ~~communique~~. He had nothing to add.

Was the Council's ~~communique~~ to be considered a nomination? Mr. Powell said that, if the President of the Council considered it as a nomination, he would transmit it to the President of the General Assembly, and that he would not so transmit it if he did not consider it as such.

*After publication of the Council's ~~communique~~ yesterday, the Secretary-General made the following brief ~~comment~~ through a spokesman: "The Secretary-General has noted with profound appreciation the ~~communique~~ just issued by the Security Council, and he will, of course, give this matter serious consideration."

Did the Security Council and the General Assembly have to take some sort of formal action regarding the Secretary-General's decision to remain in office until the end of the present session ? Mr. Nassif said both organs would have to take some kind of formal action before 3 November, when the Secretary-General's current term expires.

Would the communique be included in the Council's annual report to the 21st session ? Mr. Powell said this was doubtful as the report covered only the period July 1965 to July 1966.

How was the communique going to be treated from the procedural point of view ? Would it appear in the Council's records ? And if yes, as what ? Mr. Powell recalled that the communique had been issued as a document of the Council. The Council, being master of its own house, would determine the procedural issue as it deemed appropriate.

Asked when the Council's annual report would be out, Mr. Powell recalled that the Council's announcement yesterday stated that it had approved only part of the report. He believed therefore that the report would not be available for publication until the rest of it had been approved by the Council.

In answer to questions about the recent Nehru award to the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had decided to accept the award and had decided to give the money to the International School. The modalities of how the Secretary-General was to receive the award was still being considered.

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3 October 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY WILLIAM POWELL

At his press briefing today, William Powell announced that the scheduled press conference by Greek Foreign Minister at 3:45 p.m. has been cancelled.

He said that the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly had recorded messages on the first anniversary of Pope Paul's visit to the United Nations. He said the embargoed text of the messages would be released this afternoon.

Portugal and Tanzania were the only two listed speakers for this afternoon's Security Council meeting.

Tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m., he said, seven children from the International School would ring peace bells at a ceremony marking the visit of Pope Paul to the United Nations. Mr. Powell said that the ceremony had been organized at the suggestion of the representative of Nigeria. No invitations were being sent. The bell was presented by the Japanese United Nations Association in 1954.

At 2:00 p.m. tomorrow, Philippe De Seynes will meet the press correspondents. He is scheduled to make his statement before the Second Committee on the state of world economy later in the afternoon.

At 2:45 p.m. tomorrow, the Foreign Minister of Chile will present an abstract painting to the United Nations. The presentation ceremony will be held at IB level, between the conference rooms 4 and 5.

Ramses Nassif, replying to a question, said that the Secretary-General had accepted an invitation, extended three weeks ago, to attend Mayor Lindsay's party for United Nations diplomats tonight.

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4 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily Press briefing today, William Powell said that the cross and ring presented by the Pope to raise funds for the alleviation of suffering would be sold at auction at the Parke-Bernet Galleries before the end of the year.

He also said that, so far, no membership application has been received from Lesotho. Application for membership from Botswana would probably be considered by the Security Council at a meeting next week, he added.

The Foreign Minister of Chile, he said, will present a painting at 2:45 p.m. today.

Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs will hold a press conference at 2 p.m. today, in connexion with his statement to the Second Committee this afternoon.

The United Nations Pledging Conference will be held on Thursday, 6 October. The target mark of the Conference will be \$200 million.

Ramses Nassif announced that a cable had been received from the Pope by the Secretary-General in reply to his message. The text of the cable will be made public. Mr. Nassif added that, tonight, the Secretary-General will attend a reception given by Monsignor Giovanetti in connexion with an anniversary of the Pope's visit to the United Nations.

In reply to an earlier query, he said that a gift from Nigeria will be presented tomorrow at 5:50 p.m.

No date has been fixed for the Security Council to resume its consideration of the Congolese complaint, he said.

Replying to another question, Mr. Nassif said that the Security Council consensus on the Secretary-General's term of office did not constitute a formal recommendation to the General Assembly. The Security Council, he went on, will have to take a formal action to extend the term of the Secretary-General until the end of the year.

Regarding the views of the Secretary-General in connexion with the statement made by former President Eisenhower regarding the possible use of atomic weapons in Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said, in reply to a question, that the Secretary-General had no specific comment, but his views were well known. The Secretary-General felt that atomic weapons should not be used anywhere, under any circumstances.

5 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

? At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General would make a statement on the occasion of presentation of a gift by the Foreign Minister of Nigeria.

He stated that there was still no membership application from Lesotho, and that there was no indication of the dates of the Security Council meetings regarding the Botswana membership, the report to the General Assembly and the Congolese complaint.

In reply to a question, he said that the First Committee would start its meetings after the general debate, which presumably would end on 21 October.

The Secretary-General will have United States Secretary of State Rusk, Ambassador Goldberg and their party as guests at a luncheon at 1:15 p.m. today.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the Secretary-General was continuing his efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Vietnamese problem, but had decided not to make those efforts public.

Replying to another question, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was deeply touched by Pope Paul's kind reference to the United Nations and to U Thant personally and that he fully shared His Holiness' serious concern for the war in Viet-Nam.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

6 October 1966

At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that the debate on South West Africa will probably continue into the next week.

The general debate is now expected to end on 18 October.

He stated that the Secretary-General's United Nations Day message had been issued as a press release under the usual embargo. It was available in English, French and Spanish versions.

No communication has been received from Lesotho concerning its application for membership. Regarding the Security Council, he said no decision had been taken on its next meeting.

It is expected that Raul Prebisch, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and Jose Pinera, Chairman of the Trade and Development Board, will hold a joint press briefing tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the Secretary-General had not made any new proposals for negotiations to end the Viet-Nam war. His ideas regarding the ending of the conflict were well-known. Although he had not taken any fresh initiatives, he was in constant contact with interested Governments with a view to contributing towards creating an atmosphere congenial for the conduct of negotiations.

Replying to other questions, he said that the Secretary-General had only just seen the press accounts concerning the proposals on Viet-Nam of the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary and did not wish to comment at this time. He intended to study very carefully a letter from Premier Ky of Viet-Nam.

He also said, in reply to a question, that Duncan Sandys had seen the Secretary-General to discuss his work in the field of disarmament.

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7 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that this morning the Secretary-General briefed for about 10 minutes the members of the National Conference of Editorial Writers.

In reply to questions, he said that U Thant's remarks were along the lines of those he made some weeks ago in Albany. The Secretary-General had been invited some time ago to speak at the Conference, but he had declined the invitation due to the fact that, as a rule, no policy statements were made by him during the session of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly will give a formal dinner tonight in the North Lounge for heads of delegations and Permanent Representatives.

There was no indication with regard to meetings of the Security Council. No application for membership had been received from Lesotho, he added.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

7 October 1966

OPI PRESS BRIEFING ON PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S VISIT

At a press briefing at 4:30 p.m. today, William Powell (OPI) said that the talks between the Secretary-General and President Johnson lasted 50 minutes. The President was accompanied by the Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg. Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, was also present.

? The ^{S.G.}President described the talks as "cordial, frank and useful". The President indicated his support for the United Nations and his confidence in the Secretary-General. The talks covered a range of subjects, including Viet-Nam, said Mr. Powell.

Ramses Nassif said that the meeting was arranged by Ambassador Goldberg at 1:15 p.m. on behalf of the President.

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10 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI press briefing, William Powell said that the Foreign Minister of Israel would meet the Secretary-General at 12:30 p.m. and following that he would hold a press conference.

Jose Pinera, President of the Trade and Development Board, and Paul Prebisch, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would probably hold a press briefing on Wednesday afternoon.

Rene Maheu, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has tentatively set up his press briefing for Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that he would look into a report that the Security Council move formally on 27 October to extend the Secretary-General's term of office.

Mr. Powell, in reply to a question, said that the Security Council might meet this week to consider two applications for membership, but this has to be confirmed.

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11 October 1966

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI briefing today, William Powell said that a decision is expected today on the Security Council meeting regarding the Congolese complaint.

The report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will be issued on Thursday or Friday. It will be embargoed for Sunday.

On 17 October, the United Nations Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development will begin its meetings in Rome. A press release regarding the session will be put out on 13 October.

In reply to a question, he said that, following the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Israel, the Secretary-General, at his request, met the Syrian Ambassador. The Secretary-General is studying reports of the Chief of Staff of UNTSO.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the only indication of the North Viet-Nam reaction to the Secretary-General's proposals came unofficially through the information media (AFD). At this stage, the Secretary-General has no comment regarding these reports.

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12 October 1966

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI Press briefing today, William Powell said that there was no indication, as yet, regarding the date of the Security Council meeting.

Eleven speakers were listed to speak in the General Assembly on the question of South West Africa this afternoon. There was no indication of a vote either this afternoon or tomorrow.

The date of the Press briefing by the UNESCO Director-General had not been set yet.

Albania will deposit an instrument of ratification to the Amendment to Article 109 at 3:00 p.m. today.

In reply to a question, he said that the Press briefing by Raul Prebisch and Jose Pinera will probably be held next week.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the Secretary-General still strongly felt that his three points on Viet-Nam, if complied with, would create an atmosphere congenial to discussions and negotiations. He had no comments regarding the proposals of the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom.

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13 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI briefing today, William Powell said that the Prime Minister of Laos will speak in the General Assembly on Tuesday morning.

The day before that, the Secretary-General will give a reception for the Prime Minister.

There has been no announcement regarding future meetings of the Security Council.

Mr. Powell said that, on 19 October, the Assembly will have two meetings on South West Africa. A vote is expected the same night.

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation report will be made available today.

A press conference by Jose Pinera, President of the Trade and Development Board, and Raul Prebisch, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, will take place on 19 October, at 2:30 p.m.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that, apart from the reception, the Secretary-General will have talks with the Prime Minister of Laos.

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

14 October 1966

At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that the Foreign Minister of Haiti, Rene Chalmers, will hold a press conference at 3:30 p.m. today in Conference Room 4.

At 12:30 p.m. the Secretary-General will meet the Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies who will present to him the text of the resolution adopted by his organization concerning the war in South-East Asia.

The Secretary-General will also meet Eugene Black; the Foreign Minister of Haiti; and the ^{CAMBODIAN} ~~Laotian~~ Ambassador.

In reply to a question, he said that Mr. Black was not working for the Secretary-General in any official capacity.

Replying to another question concerning a tragedy in the family of a member of the Malawi delegation, Mr. Powell said that there were no protocol proceedings in regard to such matters.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question on a background basis, said that the Secretary-General had stated he would serve in that capacity until the end of the year. The Secretary-General had indicated in his reaction to the Security Council ~~communique~~ ~~that~~ he would consider the question of his availability. It was Mr. Nassif's understanding that there will be a statement on this subject later in the year. Mr. Nassif made it clear that he was speaking strictly for background and was not making any statement.

In reply to a question regarding a possible statement by the Secretary-General of his opinion on the world situation, he said that he will make necessary inquiries with the Secretary-General. There was no comment on President Johnson's press conference.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

17 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that the United Arab Republic and Syria had indicated they would speak in the Security Council today and Jamaica has been added to the speakers this morning in the Plenary.

? The flag raising ceremony for Lesotho and Botswana would take place at 2:45 this afternoon. The Secretary-General would give a luncheon for the King of Lesotho and the Prime Minister of Botswana at 1:15 and a reception for the Prime Minister of Laos at 6:30.

Mr. Powell said that a United Nations seminar on urban problems would commence in Pittsburg on 24 October. He added that a press release on this would be issued by Wednesday. Papers to be presented at the Seminar could be obtained from the Economic and Social Council Information Unit. He stated that the Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra would visit New York to play in the United Nations day concert.

In reply to a question he said that the Secretary-General had requested a meeting with Ambassador Goldberg regarding the incident at the Syrian Mission on Friday. They would meet this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., but he could not state where.

He added that the general debate in the Plenary would end on Tuesday and the debate on South West Africa would resume on Wednesday.

The United Nations Mission in the Dominican Republic would be withdrawn in a week or so, he reported in answer to a question.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

18 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the daily OPI press briefing today, William Powell stated that the general debate in the Assembly would end tonight, with 108 delegations having made statements (excluding rights of reply and the address by the President of the Philippines).

He said the President of Zambia is scheduled to visit Headquarters on 31 October and to address the Assembly that afternoon. The King of Morocco will visit the United Nations on 23 November and address the plenary sometime that day.

Today's appointments of the Secretary-General, he said, included those with President Makarios of Cyprus and Ambassador von Braun, Observer of the Federal Republic of Germany. The latter was expected to announce a contribution towards the cost of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

A press briefing, he said, will be held tomorrow, 19 October, at 2:30 p.m. by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Raul Prebisch, and Jose Pinera of Chile as President of the Trade and Development Board.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a press release on world population projections and a report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council based on the UNTSO reports.

Ramses Nassif, giving details of the visit of the President of Cyprus, said he was making a stop-over in New York while on a trip to Latin America. After meeting with the President of the Assembly, President Makarios met with the Secretary-General from 10:15 to 11:40 a.m., during which they held an overall review of the Cyprus situation. The talks were, said Mr. Nassif, constructive and friendly.

President Makarios, he added, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Kyprianou and Ambassador Rossides. Under-Secretaries Ralph Bunche and Jose Rolz-Bennett were also present.

In response to a question, Mr. Powell said the Security Council debate was expected to continue after consultations between Lord Caradon and Members of the Council.

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19 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell drew correspondents' attention to the announcement made by the President of the Assembly last evening, as given in the press release on the meeting, outlining the items to be considered by the General Assembly in plenary sessions in the coming weeks.

On South West Africa, Mr. Powell said 61 delegates have spoken thus far and 13 others were scheduled to speak today. Questioned about the possibility of a vote on this question, he said that possibly would take place on Friday. A supplementary resolution had been tabled by Saudi Arabia, he added.

Mr. Powell reminded correspondents that the Security Council would meet tomorrow, at 3 p.m., on the Israeli complaint; and that there would be a press briefing at 2:30 p.m. today by Raul Prebisch and Jose Pinera, President of the Trade and Development Board. He also announced that at 11 a.m. tomorrow in Room 226, Henry Labouisse, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, would symbolically accept 200 motor cycles presented to UNICEF by the Suzuki Company of Japan.

Correcting a date given correspondents yesterday, Mr. Powell said the President of Zambia would visit the United Nations on 15 November, not on 31 October.

Mr. Powell also drew attention to a press release on a seminar to be held in Pittsburgh on 24 October on urban development.

Drawing correspondents' attention to tomorrow's First Committee meeting on disarmament, he said the Soviet Union and the United States, in that order, were listed to speak.

In response to a question, Mr. Powell said there would be no further reports to the Security Council on the Israeli complaint unless one was requested by members of the Council. Asked to characterize yesterday's remarks of Ambassador Goldberg in the General Assembly discussion, Mr. Powell quoted from the press release to the effect that the Ambassador spoke in the right of reply.

Ramses Nassif was questioned about Ambassador Baroody's suggestion about moving the United Nations Headquarters to Europe. Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had no wish to comment on that suggestion or any similar suggestion on that subject.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

20 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced there were two reports just issued: an UNCURK report without an embargo, and a report by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, embargoed for 6:30 p.m. 31 October.

There would be no Press summary on the radiation report, he added, but if correspondents wished, he would ask Francesco Sella, Secretary of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, to brief correspondents on the report next week.

Mr. Powell said Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Israel and the United Arab Republic were listed to speak in the Security Council this afternoon.

A correspondent said that a speech by Ambassador Baroody in the Fifth Committee did not correspond with the summary record issued. Mr. Powell said that, if a delegate found that the provisional summary was not an objective or balanced summary of what he had said, he could object and have relevant changes made before the final summary was issued.

He was asked further how many members of a Committee would have to ask for a copy of Ambassador Baroody's speech for a text to be issued. Mr. Powell said he would have to enquire.

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General was giving a luncheon today in honour of the Prime Minister of Somalia. Eighteen guests would be present. The luncheon was taking place on the 38th floor.

Mr. Powell said that no speakers were listed in the First Committee until Tuesday. If that situation prevailed by the end of the day, the United Kingdom would be the first speaker on Tuesday.

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21 October 1966

OPI PRESS BRIEFING, FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER 1966

William Powell said that a report from UNISO was still awaited. When it was received, it would be processed as a Security Council document, he added, and Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs, hoped it might be available for circulation tomorrow.

He reminded correspondents that tickets were still available for the United Nations Day concert on Monday, 24 October, and the Indian recital to be given on Sunday, 23 October. In reply to a question, Mr. Powell said that this did not constitute two United Nations Day concerts this year; the Sunday recital, he said, was being given at the invitation of the Secretary-General and had been arranged through the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

Ramses Nassif announced that U Thant has an appointment at 3.30 p.m. today with Ambassador Seydoux of France, arranged at his request. Mr. Guindey, the French representative on the Committee of 14, would accompany the Ambassador.

The Secretary-General would attend Lord Caradon's luncheon for the members of the Security Council today at the British representative's residence, he added.

Questioned about a possible Security Council meeting next week, Mr. Nassif said, on an off the record basis and not for attribution, that there might possibly be a meeting on or about 27 October. The Council had to act prior to 3 November on the extension of the Secretary-General's term of office until the end of the year.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

24 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz announced that the lid would be on at 2:30 p.m. today, so that correspondents could attend the United Nations Day Concert. A story from Pittsburgh on the United Nations Organization Seminar was expected, he added, but would be made available by 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Ortiz said that two United Nations Day statements by the Secretary-General — one to be delivered at today's concert, the other at tonight's United Nations Day reception — would be available at 2:00 p.m. The first would be embargoed for release at 4:07 p.m., the other for 6:00 p.m. release.

In addition to U Thant, the United Nations Day reception, he added, would have as joint hosts the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Mr. Ortiz said there would be only one meeting of the First Committee tomorrow, a morning meeting, at which the United Kingdom would make a statement on non-proliferation. The report on apartheid, he added, would be available at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow and, at 11:15 a.m. Ambassador Marof Achkar would have a Press briefing on the report in Room 226.

Asked if U Thant had any comment on a statement by Ambassador Goldberg on the Today television programme today, in which he described the Secretary-General's 3-point Viet-Nam plan as a "package" deal, Ramses Nassif said he was not prepared for the question but would have to seek guidance.

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25 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Security Council would meet tomorrow at 3 p.m. on the Israeli complaint against Syria.

The President of the Assembly, he said, would be the luncheon guest at the Waldorf today of the International Radio and Television Society. The text of an address he is due to make would be available between 12:30 and 1 p.m. The text should be checked against delivery.

The General Assembly subject to confirmation, he added, would resume its debate on South West Africa tomorrow. Asked if an agreed draft resolution was ready, Mr. Powell said he had no information on this.

Mr. Powell mentioned that the text of a communication to the Secretary-General from the Foreign Minister of Iran had been issued, in which an invitation for the International Conference on Human Rights to hold its meeting in Teheran in 1968 was formally made.

At noon today, said Mr. Powell, Ambassador Corner of New Zealand would sign the International Convention Against Racial Discrimination.

Among the Secretary-General's appointments today, he added, was a luncheon given by Cardinal Spellman at his residence.

In response to a question whether the Cardinal would be conveying a message from the Pope, Mr. Powell said it was a purely social occasion. Ramses Nassif pointed out that it was more likely that if the Vatican had any message to convey to U Thant it would be sent via the Vatican's Observer to the United Nations.

Mr. Nassif was asked whether, following yesterday's question about Ambassador Goldberg's television statement on the Secretary-General's 3-point plan for Vietnam peace, he had any comment from U Thant. Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General did not want to comment on the remarks made by the United States Ambassador. On a background basis, however, the Secretary-General has always listed his 3 points as 1, 2 and 3. He added, in response to further questions, that U Thant did not wish to comment either on the Manila communique or the communique issued in New Delhi. He explained that the Secretary-General had seen only Press reports of the New Delhi text, and had not received an official text.

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26 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell, referring to Assembly business today, said that the President would announce this afternoon's plans before the luncheon adjournment. Because of the unlikelihood of a vote on the 54-Power draft resolution this morning, he added, the items from the Third and Fifth Committees were likely to be dealt with this afternoon, with the possibility of a late afternoon or evening meeting on the question of South West Africa. He did not know who would introduce the Latin American amendments.

Mr. Powell said that the Assembly would adjourn before 1 p.m., because of the President's weekly luncheon for Committee Chairmen, which the Secretary-General would also attend.

Jordan was listed as the only speaker in the Security Council. No resolution had been sent to the Council, he added.

The only appointment which the Secretary-General has today, he said, was a 5:15 p.m. appointment, which was requested by Lord Chalfont (United Kingdom).

Mr. Powell said he had no information on when the Security Council would consider the annual report. He understood — though it could not be attributed — that the Council would meet tomorrow or Friday on the question of the extension of the Secretary-General's term.

In response to a question, Ramses Nassif said there was nothing new to say on U Thant's position regarding his decision not to offer himself for a farther term of office.

He said that the Secretary-General did not wish to comment at this time on the Manila conference, Viet-Nam or current peace efforts. He added that, as far as he was informed, no delegation representing one of the participants at the Manila conference had given U Thant information on the meeting.

Asked about U Thant's luncheon with Cardinal Spellman yesterday, he said that the Secretary-General had found it a delightful lunch.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

27 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell described the situation in the General Assembly as fluid, and said that for this reason he had been asked by Francis Carpenter to announce that the United States Mission briefing would not take place. Later, a message from William Squire of the United Kingdom Mission was read by Mr. Powell; this said that, he, too, was cancelling his daily briefing.

Mr. Powell said that added to the list of speakers in the plenary were the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Ghana and India. Several delegations, he added, had indicated that they wished to speak after the vote, though when this would take place he did not know. These were Portugal, Canada, Italy and New Zealand.

He said a resolution had been submitted to the Security Council by the United Kingdom and the United States. It was not available at the moment since it had not been circulated to all the members of the Council. Mr. Powell said he would try to get copies sometime before 1 p.m.

Mr. Powell mentioned the possibility of a new resolution in the First Committee on non-proliferation, while a draft resolution on the report of the Committee of 14 would be discussed in the Fifth Committee.

In the last few minutes, he added, Saudi Arabia had presented a revised draft resolution on South West Africa in the General Assembly.

In answer to a question, Mr. Powell said he had no guidance on it, but it was expected that the Security Council would meet tomorrow on extending the Secretary-General's term.

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28 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that Francesco Sella, Secretary of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, would give a briefing this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 on the report of the Committee. The report is embargoed for release at 6 p.m. on Monday, 31 October.

Mr. Powell said the closed Security Council meeting on the recommendation on extending the Secretary-General's term of office would be followed by the issuance of a communique. It was hoped that this might be available about 3:30 p.m. It would be read out to correspondents in Room 226.

He said there would be no General Assembly Plenary meeting on Monday, and the rescheduled meeting on the elections to the Security Council and Economic and Social Council would be announced in the next issue of the Journal. The General Assembly, he added, would meet Tuesday morning to vote on the five new members of the International Court of Justice; and at 3 p.m., Tuesday, on the recommendation of the Security Council on extending the Secretary-General's term of office. On Tuesday also, he said, the Security Council will meet on the question of the International Court elections.

Asked for comment on the explosion of a Chinese nuclear missile, Ramses Nassif quoted the Secretary-General as saying: "Any atomic explosion anywhere is to be regretted in the context of the General Assembly resolutions on this subject." He added, in response to a further question, that this applied to all explosions, regardless of which country originated them.

Mr. Powell said that the Fifth Committee Chairman had announced that the Committee will vote on the report of the Committee of 14 on Monday.

On the question of membership of the committee to be set up under the South West Africa resolution, he said that it was too soon to say which countries might be members, as the President would be consulting members in the next few days.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

31 October 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the first item on the General Assembly agenda tomorrow afternoon would be the Security Council recommendation extending the Secretary-General's appointment to the end of the session. At the present time he could not say what other items might be considered at that meeting, he added. The General Assembly was due to consider the International Court of Justice appointments, he said, but as this required a concurrent meeting of the Security Council and the Council's plans were uncertain, he could not say at this moment whether the Court item would be dealt with.

The only speaker listed this afternoon in the Security Council, he added, was Ambassador Baroody of Saudi Arabia. The two reports requested by the Security Council — on the Mixed Armistice Commission and the status of the neutralized zones — were in the course of preparation, he continued, but would probably not be ready until tomorrow.

Mr. Powell announced that Ambassador Achkar Marof of Guinea and Ambassador Arkhurst of Ghana were both seeing the Secretary-General this morning at their request. He said the First Committee might vote by Wednesday on renunciation by States of actions hampering the conclusion of an agreement on non-proliferation.

Ramses Nassif said, in answer to a question, that U Thant had no comment to make on the detention by Ghana of the Foreign Minister of Guinea. He pointed out that in the past the Secretary-General had used his good offices between the two countries to secure the return from Guinea of Ghanaian diplomats. He added that he had no knowledge of U Thant's good offices being requested by either party to the present dispute, but assured correspondents that he would make known after today's meeting between the Secretary-General and the Ambassadors whatever information might be available.

Questioned about the New York "Minutemen" arrested by police, Mr. Powell said the United Nations had not been informed that it was among the listed targets of the right wing group's plans to blow up certain "camp sites". In response to a further question, he added that the police would normally inform the United Nations in such circumstances.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

1 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Security Council had not met this morning in order to allow consultations to continue in private. It was possible, he added, that the Council would meet at 4:30 p.m. today on the Palestine question.

Mr. Powell said the General Assembly was due to meet tomorrow at 3 p.m. on the elections to the International Court of Justice. This would call for a concurrent meeting of the Security Council, he said.

In the plenary this afternoon, a draft resolution is to be introduced recommending an extension of the Secretary-General's appointment to the end of the twenty-first session. Following action on the draft resolution, he continued, U Thant would make a brief formal statement.

In answer to questions, Ramses Nassif said there would be no advance text; and that the Secretary-General would take his seat after the Assembly had acted on the draft resolution.

Elections to the Security Council and to the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Powell added, were not yet scheduled.

The Fifth Committee resolution on the Committee of Fourteen report would probably come before the Assembly before the end of this week.

Mr. Powell stated that the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission would be issued today.

Mr. Nassif, in answer to a question, said that the Secretary-General had made an appeal to the Heads of State of Ghana and Guinea following his separate appointments yesterday with the Ambassadors representing those countries.

The appeals had gone by cable, but because U Thant wanted to be certain that his message had reached the recipients, and communications were not always dependable, there would be no details on the nature of the appeals for the time being.

(more)

In the First Committee, said Mr. Powell, the 38-Power draft resolution on renunciation of actions hampering a non-proliferation agreement, would possibly be voted on tomorrow.

In response to a question about two recently published books by former United Nations officials, Mr. Powell said that both General Von Horn and former Under-Secretary Tavares Da Sa had received letters from the Director of Personnel, reminding them of staff regulations concerning publications of information which they had received during their period of service with the United Nations Secretariat.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

2 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that Ambassador Goldberg (United States) this morning handed over^{to}/the Secretary-General the instrument of ratification of the UNESCO Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials.

Mr. Powell said that the texts of the two cables sent by U Thant to the Heads of State of Ghana and Guinea would be issued as press releases within the hour. He added that the report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the status of the northern sector of the Palestine demilitarized zone would be available sometime today.

Questioned about U Thant's reference yesterday, in his statement to the General Assembly, to his "final decision", Ramses Nassif said he had been authorized by the Secretary-General to say that U Thant hoped to be able to reach a final decision by the end of this month. Mr. Nassif, in answer to further queries, said that he had nothing to add to the Secretary-General's statement.

Mr. Nassif answered a number of questions regarding the visit to the Secretary-General yesterday by Ambassador Lopez of the Philippines. He said the Ambassador gave U Thant a written communication from President Marcos in which he conveyed the communique of the Manila Conference. Orally, said Mr. Nassif, the Ambassador explained President Marcos's idea in calling an all-Asian conference on Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General listened with interest but made no comment, Mr. Nassif added. Mr. Lopez informed U Thant that the Government of Burma had agreed to be host to an all-Asian conference, he continued. The Secretary-General had no other information on this or who would be the participants, said Mr. Nassif, and knew only what the Philippines Ambassador had told him.

In response to another related question, Ramses Nassif said that, whatever the Secretary-General was doing with regard to peace in Viet-Nam, he was doing so privately and quietly.

Mr. Powell said that he had no comment to offer on a statement by the South African Prime Minister to the effect that the General Assembly resolution on South West Africa had no foundation in international law.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

3 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that this afternoon two Press releases would be issued carrying the texts of messages from the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of UNESCO. The anniversary, he added, would be observed formally in Paris tomorrow and the messages would be read at a meeting of the UNESCO Conference. The texts would be embargoed for release at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Mr. Powell said the Security Council had completed its initial task in the election of five members of the International Court of Justice, and the resumed meeting of the General Assembly would take place at 3 p.m. today to elect a fifth candidate. Subsequently both the General Assembly and the Security Council would have to meet to resume voting. He mentioned that the election procedure was explained in document A/6366 of 22 August 1966.

Ramses Nassif ^{*Replying to a question said*} ~~announced~~ that New York City Police Commissioner Howard Leary and Chief Inspector S. Garelik called on U Thant at their own request this morning to assure him that there was no basis in published reports that the activities of the Minutemen included the United Nations as a possible target. The Secretary-General thanked them for this gesture of goodwill.

In response to a number of questions, he said that at no time had the Secretary-General expressed his concern at the published reports; the only purpose of the visit was the one Mr. Nassif had described. It was the first time U Thant had had the pleasure of meeting these two gentlemen, continued Mr. Nassif. He added that he would not categorise the meeting as unprecedented.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

4 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said there was, as yet, no list of speakers for the General Assembly this afternoon. He pointed out, however, that a list of speakers in the Security Council, both before and after the vote, had been posted.

U Thant's only appointment today was a call on the Secretary-General at 3 p.m. by Prince Albert of Belgium.

In response to a number of questions about the "United Nations Command" in Korea, Mr. Powell said the position as to a Unified Command was made clear in a Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950. Under this resolution, he added, the United States was to provide the Commander. Mr. Powell said the Command was requested to report to the Security Council as appropriate, but as far as he was informed, there had been no report since the armistice of 1953. He said that he had no information on the composition of the force, and stressed that what was established was a Unified Command, not a United Nations Command. The Command was authorized to fly the United Nations flag, he observed.

To a further question, he said there had never been any consultations between the Secretary-General and the Commander in Korea.

Asked about the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee of 14 on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said it was likely that the President of the General Assembly might say something on this question during the plenary this afternoon. However, he added, this was very tentative.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

7 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell repeated the announcement on Friday by the President of the General Assembly about this week's plenary meetings.

On Wednesday, 9 November, the Assembly's morning session will begin consideration of item 92, "Strict observance of the prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations". On Thursday afternoon, it will proceed with elections to the International Law Commission. On Friday afternoon, the General Assembly will deal with elections to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Powell said that Mr. Ciborowski, United Nations Development Programme Project Manager for the rebuilding of Skoplje and a former architect of reconstructed Warsaw, would hold a Press briefing at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 10 November, in Room 2435.

Mr. Powell also announced that Marof Achkar, Permanent Representative of Guinea, had, on behalf of his Government, delivered a reply to the Secretary-General's message of 31 October. The message from Guinea was being circulated to States Members today, he said, and would be made available to the Press tomorrow. No reply had yet been received from Ghana, he added.

Asked about progress in setting up the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said nothing firm had developed, but the President of the Assembly hoped he would be in a position to make an announcement this week.

To further questions about the status of the forces in Korea, Mr. Powell said that while the Security Council on 7 July 1950 established a Unified Command for Korea, the United States Commander in his reports, subsequently, to the Security Council referred to the "United Nations Command". However, he added, the Security Council had always, in turn, used the term "Unified Command". The Security Council resolution, he said, authorized the flying of the United Nations flag alongside the national flags of contingents in the Command.

(more)

Ramses Nassif said he had no comment to make on published reports regarding the Secretary-General's plans to remain in office beyond the end of the present session and, as already stated, the Secretary-General hoped to make his final decision known by the end of this month.

He announced that U Thant was sending today two messages of sympathy to the Italian Government and the Mayor of Florence regarding the flood damage in Italy. Florence had a special meaning for the Secretary-General, said Mr. Nassif, because he had been made an honorary citizen in 1963.

Mr. Powell said that, with the anniversary of the New York blackout occurring this week, he could announce that emergency plans were already in operation, under which battery-supplied electricity could provide lighting, if necessary, on the two staircases in the Secretariat building. By the end of December, he added, three diesel generators would be in a position to provide a limited elevator service in the building, and limited electricity to the General Assembly and Conference buildings, as well as lighting for the corridors, clinic, and cafeteria in the Secretariat building.

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

8 November 1966

William Powell said two votes were expected to take place in the First Committee tomorrow. He understood a revised draft of the 46-Power draft resolution on non-proliferation would be introduced today or tomorrow. A resolution (document A/C.1/L.372) originally tabled by Pakistan, which calls for a conference of non-nuclear States is now co-sponsored by Jamaica, Somalia and Libya, he added, with draft amendments tabled by Sierra Leone. The amendments were read out by Mr. Powell:

Mr. Powell said a message to the Organization of African Unity from the President of the Assembly was now available to correspondents. The debate on Chinese representation in the plenary, he continued, which had been scheduled for the week commencing 21 November, would probably begin on Friday, 18 November.

Mr. Powell said that in response to earlier questions he could say the following with regard to consultations on the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa:

"Immediately following adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly on 28 October, the President began consultations with Member States. These consultations have been carried out in the same form with Member States.

"No formal invitation to serve on the Committee has been extended to any Member State. In the consultations, no permanent member of the Security Council has yet been excluded.

"These consultations are continuing. Although the final stage in the establishment of the Ad Hoc group has not yet been reached, considerable progress has been made. The President hopes to be in a position to make an announcement this week."

In answer to questions, Mr. Powell said the President had not seen representatives of all 121 members, but had met as many as possible in the short time available. The meetings had not been on the basis of regional groupings but on an individual basis, he added.

(more)

Ramses Nassif was questioned about a statement by United States Ambassador Goldberg in Texas that he was receiving "atmospherics". He replied that the Secretary-General had no comment on make on Viet-Nam at this time.

Asked whether U Nu had been in touch with U Thant, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General yesterday received a personal letter from the former Burmese Prime Minister. The letter, which was sent from Rangoon on 1 November, requested U Thant to offer himself for a second term as Secretary-General, said Mr. Nassif. It was a private letter, he added, and no portion of it would be made public. Nor could he give any indication of U Thant's reaction to the letter.

Questioned about a reported Canadian draft resolution on a two-China policy, Mr. Powell said no resolution from Canada on the matter of Chinese representation had been received as yet.

Ramses Nassif announced that the Soviet poet, Yevtushenko, and his wife, would make a courtesy call on the Secretary-General at 5 p.m. today. Mr. Powell mentioned that the Secretary of the Mexican Academy of International Law had an appointment with U Thant this morning.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

9 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that, as announced in the United Nations Journal, two meetings of the Assembly were planned for tomorrow. However, the morning meeting, which would be on the Czech item, might be cancelled if no speakers were listed by then. The afternoon meeting would deal with elections to the International Law Commission.

Mr. Powell said a vote in the First Committee on the non-proliferation item was more likely to take place tomorrow instead of today. The deadline for submission of amendments and proposals on the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA in the Special Political Committee was this evening, he noted. But it was uncertain whether the item would be disposed of by the end of this week, as planned.

Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General's engagements today included appointments with Lord Caradon and Ambassador Hambro of Norway. The President of the Assembly would be giving his regular weekly luncheon for Committee Chairmen today, and this would be attended by the Secretary-General.

To a question regarding a possible vote in the Assembly on Friday on the Czech item, Mr. Powell said he could not say whether this was possible. However, he reminded correspondents that on Friday afternoon the Assembly was due to take up elections to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Regarding the meeting yesterday with the Soviet poet, Yevtushenko, Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General had had a pleasant conversation with the visitor. Mr. Nassif said Ambassador Goldberg had a meeting with the Secretary-General lasting 65 minutes last evening. In response to questions on the substance of the conversation, Mr. Nassif said they discussed matters of mutual interest including Viet-Nam.

Asked when U Thant was likely to make known his "final decision" this month on the question of a second term, Mr. Nassif said it might be by the end of this month and he hoped to be in a position to be more specific next week.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

10 November 1966

William Powell reminded correspondents that Mr. Ciborowski, United Nations Development Programme Project Manager for rebuilding Skopje, Yugoslavia, would hold a press conference in Room 2435 at 3 p.m. today.

Mr. Powell said the General Assembly would meet this afternoon to elect the 25 members of the International Law Commission. There was a total of 37 candidates, he added. Tomorrow, he continued, the General Assembly would meet in the morning to continue discussion of the Czech item on the prohibition of the threat or use of force, and in the afternoon to deal with elections to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The text of a message from the Secretary-General to the Foreign Minister of Panama was now available, said Mr. Powell. In it, U Thant expressed sympathy for the tragic loss of life in the heavy rains in Panama, and offered to extend any possible help should it be needed. In this connexion, he added, OPI this afternoon would issue a Press Release outlining three United Nations offers of disaster assistance of a symbolic nature, which have been accepted by Western Samoa, Turkey and Mongolia.

Mr. Powell said the United States, in a note dated 7 November, made a payment of \$3 million against United States pledges of support for the United Nations forces in Cyprus. This brought United States payments to \$18,200,000 against total United States pledges of \$24,100,000.

Questioned about news reports from Kansas of alleged Minutemen plots to inject cyanide into the United Nations air conditioning system, Mr. Powell said he had no information of any such report. However, he added that the United Nations air conditioning plant was an intricate maze of complicated systems, using many fan rooms for different sections of the Secretariat and the Assembly building.

Mr. Powell, in response to other questions, said that the Secretary-General did not contemplate intervening in the Fifth Committee's consideration of the United Nations bond issue, nor was there any reaction by the Secretary-General on this subject.

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Ramses Nassif responding to earlier queries confirmed that the text of a message sent by U Thant to Lord Brockway, Chairman of the British Council for Peace in Viet-Nam, would be made available at 10 a.m. tomorrow. He added it was on Viet-Nam and it was in response to a request for a message from Lord Brockway.

Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had no comment on the reported use of tear gas by the Viet-Cong. This was in keeping with U Thant's practice of not saying anything on any aspect of the war in Viet-Nam at this time, he added.

Answering questions about United Nations disaster assistance, Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General was authorized to devote \$100,000 per annum for this purpose, with a maximum \$20,000 going to any single disaster. In reply to a question, he added that the Secretary-General had sent a letter to the Foreign Minister of Haiti offering United Nations assistance, but no request had yet been received.

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8/11/66

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

11 November 1966

William Powell said President Kaunda of Zambia would visit the United Nations on Tuesday, 15 November, and would meet the Press in Conference Room 4 immediately following an address to the General Assembly at 12 noon. He will then be the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Secretary-General. Mr. Powell said a note would be issued on Monday regarding the details of Mr. Kaunda's visit.

This afternoon, the General Assembly will elect members of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Two meetings of the General Assembly have been tentatively scheduled for Monday, when debate on item 92 will be continued. Mr. Powell said President Pazhwak might make a statement on the work of the General Assembly at the end of this afternoon's meeting.

A release was issued today containing a backgrounder on the resumed session of the Economic and Social Council, which will begin on 15 November. The Council will consider a number of different items including the Capital Development Fund; the 1967 Symposium on Industrial Development; the status of the High Commissioner for Refugees; and elections to subsidiary bodies.

Yesterday, document S/7532, concerning pledges to the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus, as of 10 November, was put out. Mr. Powell said that pledges totalled nearly \$55 million. In October, the Secretary-General requested \$6,163,000 for the period up to 26 December 1966, and since then over \$1 million has been pledged.

In response to questions concerning the progress of the General Assembly, Mr. Powell said the Assembly was more or less on schedule. The date for the beginning of the debate on the ^{Chinese representation} ~~Charter~~ had been moved up to 18 November in order to suit the sponsors of ^{the item} ~~amendments~~ and those who wished to speak.

The President of the Assembly hoped that he would be able to make an announcement on the choosing of the Committee on South West Africa before the end of this week.

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In response to a question as to whether President Pazhwak had consulted with South Africa on the membership of the Committee, Mr. Powell said he had consulted "with as many Member States as possible". Mr. Powell said he would try to find out if the President had had specific consultations with South Africa.

There was no word as to when the Assembly would take up the item on Rhodesia. An announcement may be made at the beginning of this afternoon's meeting.

In answer to questions on the Secretary-General's letter to Lord Brockway, Chairman of the British Council for Peace in Viet-Nam, Ramses Nassif said that the letter, dated 19 October, had been released because it was read today at the opening of a seminar held by the Council in London. The Secretary-General continues to stand by every word in the letter, he said, and considers that cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam is the first step to be taken towards creating an atmosphere more conducive to negotiations.

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General hoped to announce his final decision regarding his future plans by the end of this month.

Mr. Nassif added that he had no comment to make in response to a question as to whether the Secretary-General's stand on elections in Viet-Nam was contrary to the Geneva Agreements.

Referring to Senator Mansfield's proposals regarding Security Council action on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's views on this subject were well known and it was now up to the Security Council to decide.

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14 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

After announcing that, as of 11:55 a.m., no request for a meeting of the Security Council had been received, William Powell said later that he had just received word that a communication had been received and he was endeavouring to get hold of a copy. Towards the end of the briefing, Mr. Powell read out the letter which Ambassador El-Farra of Jordan had delivered to the President of the Security Council this morning. Dated 14 November, it drew attention to the grave situation arising from the "naked act of aggression committed by Israeli Armed Forces on 13 November".

The Government of Jordan, after stating that the matter was in the hands of the Mixed Armistice Commission, said it reserved the right to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council and asked that its communication to the President be circulated among members of the Council.

Mr. Powell recapitulated the programme of work outlined by the President of the Assembly last Friday. He also referred to the details of tomorrow's visit by the President of Zambia to Headquarters.

Mr. Powell said the President would arrive at the United Nations at 10 a.m., hold a private conversation with the Secretary-General, address the General Assembly at 11:15 a.m., hold a Press conference in Conference Room 4 at noon, and be the guest of honour at a luncheon to be given by U Thant in the Library penthouse at 1:10 p.m. A guest list of between 50 and 55 persons would be issued tomorrow, he added.

Mr. Powell said because of the President's Press conference, the usual noon OPI briefing would be cancelled; a 1 p.m. meeting with correspondents would be called if circumstances warranted, he said.

The Secretary-General's appointments today, said Mr. Powell, included visits by the Iraqi Permanent Representative, and a Japanese woman member of Congress. At 12:30 today U Thant would be a luncheon guest of Mayor Lindsay at City Hall. In response to a question, Ramses Nassif said the visit was to reciprocate an earlier visit by the Mayor.

In answer to a question, Mr. Powell said those tentatively listed to speak on the China item in the Assembly were Canada, Italy, Luxembourg and China. Other speakers would undoubtedly be inscribed and the order of speeches was still tentative.

Asked about press reports of a possible Canadian initiative on the China item, Mr. Nassif said that to the best of his knowledge, the Secretary-General had not been consulted by Canada on the substance of its reported "two-China" resolution. In reply to a further question, regarding a possible announcement this week on the Secretary-General's decision in connexion with his future plans, Mr. Nassif said that an announcement would be made by the end of the month as already stated, not by the end of this week.

In response to a question as to whether South Africa had been consulted by the President of the Assembly in his talks with Member States on the composition of the ad hoc committee on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said the President had been consulting a number of delegations. He added that the President did not wish to indicate which countries had been consulted, but hoped to be able to announce the membership of the committee without delay.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

16 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the text of the Secretary-General's statement in the Security Council would be released shortly. He added that a release would also be made today regarding the fire in the editorial documents section of the International Labour Organisation annex in Geneva.

He reminded correspondents of the 2:30 p.m. press briefing with Mr. Hartsharf from Bangkok, the expert on the Mekong project.

Mr. Powell said that the President of the Assembly had announced yesterday that there were 13 speakers for today on item 92 in Plenary, and 12 for tomorrow. For this reason, the President had scheduled a night meeting for the Plenary tomorrow. He added that the Committee of 24 would meet tonight.

The debate on Chinese representation would begin on Friday morning in Plenary, with Cambodia, Italy, China, Luxembourg and Guinea listed to speak. On Monday morning Canada, United States and Albania were listed to speak. The debate would continue with two meetings a day until Monday, 28 November, (with a possible interruption on 23 November for the speech by the King of Morocco) and consideration of the IAEA report.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the Secretary-General had been informed that the visit of the King of Morocco might be postponed and asked that this should be checked with the Moroccan Mission.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

17 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that a background release would be issued tomorrow on the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Mr. Powell said the list of speakers had been revised for the plenary debate tomorrow morning on Chinese representation as follows: Cambodia, Italy, China and Guinea. He said that as yet there were no speakers scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. The speakers on this question for Monday morning are Canada, Togo, United States and Albania. The list for Monday afternoon are Burma and, tentatively, the Soviet Union, which might speak on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Powell said that a vote on the item concerning prohibition of the threat or use of force is expected at tonight's plenary meeting.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said that there were no candidates for the post of Executive Director of UNIDO, who would be appointed by the Secretary-General once UNIDO was established.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said that a vote on disarmament was expected sometime Friday in the First Committee.

Ramzes Nassif, replying to a question, said that there was nothing new concerning the final decision of the Secretary-General other than that it would be made public at the end of the month.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said that the President of the General Assembly was continuing to hold consultations on the composition of the committee on South West Africa.

On another question, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General would submit a written report, possibly tomorrow, to the Security Council on the Jordanian complaint against Israel following receipt of further information from General Odd Bull.

Replying to a question on final figures of casualties, Mr. Powell said that any information available would be included in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General.

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18 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell recapitulated the announcement made by the President of the Assembly at the commencement of this morning's session regarding the future work of the General Assembly. The President, he said, hoped to close the list of speakers on item 90 on 23 November, and make 25 November the time limit for the submission of amendments and proposals on the Chinese representation question. On Tuesday, 22 November, he added, the Assembly would vote on item 92 in the morning, and in the afternoon discuss the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. Powell said the report requested by the Security Council of the Commander in Chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO), General Odd Bull, was in the process of coming in. If not ready for distribution this afternoon, he said, it would probably be out tomorrow.

The First Committee, said Mr. Powell, would resume discussion of the question of general and complete disarmament at 10:30 a.m. on Monday. A background release on the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) would be available this afternoon, he added.

Asked about the availability of the draft resolution mentioned by the representative of Italy in the Assembly this morning, Mr. Powell said the text was not available at 11 a.m. this morning.

Regarding a possible Security Council resolution on the Israeli question, Mr. Powell said nothing had been handed in as yet.

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had been paid a courtesy call this morning by the Foreign Minister of China. No matter of substance was discussed, he added. The Prime Minister of Malta also had made a courtesy call on U Thant, he said.

Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had no comment to make on the Italian proposal for an ad hoc committee to investigate Peking's views on representation in the United Nations and, he added in response to a further question, nor did the Secretary-General intend commenting on the item being discussed in the General Assembly.

In answer to questions, Mr. Powell said he had looked into the question of the South African lobster tails which, as a speaker in the Fourth Committee had mentioned yesterday, were on the menu of the Delegates' Dining Room. They were, in fact, from New Zealand, he said; "South African lobster tails" was the generic term for imported lobster tails in the United States, he added.

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21 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that there were changes in the appointments posted for the Secretary-General today. The appointment of Ambassador Jose Sette Camara of Brazil had been postponed until later this afternoon, he said; Ambassador Mehdi Vakil of Iran would see the Secretary-General at 3:00 p.m., the former Foreign Minister of Japan at 5:00 p.m., and the Ambassador of the United Arab Republic at 5:30 p.m.

Speakers in the plenary this afternoon on the Chinese representation item, he said, would be Burma, the Soviet Union, Chile, and Congo (Brazzaville). The item on the use of threat of force would be resumed in the plenary tomorrow morning, when there would be several speakers, he added. The Chinese representation item would be continued late Tuesday morning, when France, Pakistan and Afghanistan (tentatively) would speak, he said.

Mr. Powell said there was a full schedule of committee and plenary meetings for Thursday morning, though this might change if committees or the General Assembly decided to cancel meetings.

In answer to a question, Ramses Nassif said he did not agree at all that the Ambassadors seeing U Thant today were necessarily discussing the question of Chinese representation.

Mr. Powell, in response to another question, said a vote on the China item was not likely until 28 November.

Mr. Nassif said, in answer to a question about the possibility of an announcement about the Secretary-General's decision on his future plans, that the position was still as previously announced: that U Thant would make known his decision by the end of this month.

Regarding the Secretary-General's views on a Christmas truce in Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that, as U Thant stated on Saturday, the Secretary-General's views on this subject were well known and if there were a truce, it might create an atmosphere congenial to peaceful negotiations. To a question as to whether U Thant was in touch with the Pope on this matter, Mr. Nassif said it was his understanding that the Secretary-General had not been in touch with the Pontiff for several weeks.

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After telling a questioner that the General Assembly President was still consulting on the appointment of members of the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa, Mr. Powell returned after the briefing to announce that the President at the end of this morning's plenary had announced the composition of the committee. The members, said Mr. Powell, were as follows: Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Soviet Union, United Arab Republic and United States.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

22 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz announced that the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would hold a press briefing in Room 226 at 11 a.m. tomorrow in connexion with the consideration of the Agency's report in the General Assembly plenary this afternoon.

He said that a vote on the disarmament question is expected tomorrow in the First Committee.

The Secretary-General, he continued, is communicating with Governments on the appointment of their representatives who will sit on the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa.

Ramses Nassif, in reply to a question, said that the Secretary-General took note with profound appreciation of the letter sent to him by 129 prominent Americans. He also assured correspondents, in response to queries, that there would be no announcement from the Secretary-General over the week-end.

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25 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

In connexion with the Secretary-General's appointments, William Powell said that the 10:30 a.m. meeting which was held in Conference Room 8 was concerned with the Prek Thnot Priority Project in Cambodia. This is a multi-purpose dam to be constructed as part of the Mekong Project. Representatives of 23 countries had been invited to attend. The text of the Secretary-General's statement at the opening of the meeting has been issued as press release SG/SM/613-ECAFE/410.

Mr. Powell pointed out in connexion with the schedule of today's meetings that the Special Political Committee was listed for a night meeting tonight. In answer to a question, he indicated that the General Assembly was more likely to conclude the item on Chinese representation on Tuesday rather than on Monday. The First Committee was expected to reach a vote this afternoon on item 29 (question of convening a conference on banning the use of nuclear weapons) and three speakers (Ivory Coast, Togo and the United Kingdom) were scheduled to speak on item 98 (elimination of foreign military bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America).

Mr. Powell also referred to a release which will be issued today on the meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme which is scheduled for Monday, 28 November.

Asked about the Assembly's schedule of work, Mr. Powell said that he understood that the Assembly was on schedule and that the President was in touch with the Chairmen of the main committees regarding night meetings, as required, to maintain the pace of the work.

Asked about the schedule of the Committee of 14 on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said that he would have to seek guidance on this matter. He said that he did not know when the Security Council would meet again to approve the remainder of its report to the General Assembly.

Asked about the Secretary-General's announcement concerning his future plans, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General intended to make this announcement by 30 November. He would inform the correspondents as soon as possible regarding the form of the announcement. Mr. Nassif added that tonight's reception by the Secretary-General was purely a social affair and that the correspondents should not expect or seek news on this occasion.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

28 November 1966

William Powell called attention to the Secretary-General's appointments which had been posted. All of them, he noted, were at the request of the respective Ambassadors or Deputy Foreign Ministers.

In answer to question regarding the appointment of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister V. Kuznetsov, Ramses Nassif said that Mr. Kuznetsov had been accompanied by Ambassador Fedorenko and had spent 55 minutes with the Secretary-General. He added that they discussed some important problems before the United Nations in a very frank and friendly atmosphere.

In answer to a question on Romania Deputy Foreign Minister Mircea Malitza's appointment, Mr. Nassif said that it was now taking place and he had no knowledge of the reason for the appointment.

Mr. Powell said that in response to a question last Friday, he had learned that the Secretary-General had requested the Governments appointed to the ad hoc Committee on South West Africa to indicate to him the names of their representatives for the Committee. When the replies had been received, the Secretary-General would convene a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of electing the Chairman and the other officers. There was, as yet, no indication of when this inaugural meeting would take place. Mr. Powell said that he could not say at what level the Governments were nominating their representatives for the Committee.

In answer to a question regarding the vote on the Chinese representation item in the Assembly, Mr. Powell said that from the number of speakers remaining to be heard it was probably more likely that consideration of the item would be concluded tomorrow rather than today. He advised correspondents to follow the proceedings in Plenary closely in order to have the latest information on developments.

Mr. Powell said that a release would be issued today containing the text of the Secretary-General's message to Prime Minister Errol Barrow on the occasion of the independence of Barbados.

Mr. Powell also called attention to a Note to Correspondents which would be issued early this afternoon concerning three live television transmissions via

(more)

satellite to Europe and Japan which would take place today from United Nations Headquarters. He read the list of countries which would be retransmitting the programmes originating here. In answer to questions, he said that the United Nations did not have satellites of its own. The transmissions were via commercial satellites and that the cost of the transmissions was being borne by the participating organizations.

In answer to another question, Mr. Powell said that the communication from the German Democratic Republic referred to in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Hungary of 19 November, would be circulated in Member States as a Note Verbale probably in the course of the next twenty-four hours. In answer to another question Mr. Powell said that no communication concerning Cuba had been received thus far today from the Organization of American States.

In reply to a final question, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had not been in touch with Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker in the course of the last few days.

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30 November 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell mentioned the announcement made by him after 6 p.m. last evening to the effect that five Security Council members had met the Secretary-General last evening at their request, and that U Thant had authorized to state that no announcement regarding his future plans would be made until later this week.

Other announcements made by Mr. Powell were that Joe Carlos Bernardes, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus, was seeing the Secretary-General today at 4 p.m. during a two-day stop-over in New York on his return to Cyprus from home leave; that the Secretary-General's appointments with Ambassadors today were at their own request; and that the General Assembly would meet on Friday in a pledging conference for refugees: for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the morning, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the afternoon.

Mr. Powell also said that item 98 would be discussed by the First Committee the remainder of today, with a vote probably taking place tomorrow.

Asked for comment on a Washington report that the Secretary-General "had not seen fit to publish an Organization of American States report" on Communist activities in the Western hemisphere, Mr. Powell said the United Nations had had no knowledge of such a report yesterday, but that he would again check today to ascertain whether anything was known about it.

In response to a question, Ramses Nassif read a prepared statement as follows:

"The Secretary-General warmly welcomes the published reports that all sides have agreed to Christmas and New Year truces in Viet-Nam. He feels very strongly that the motives which have led the parties to this agreement could bring about a general cessation of hostilities and thus create the necessary atmosphere to move the conflict from the battlefield to the conference table."

(more)

Asked whether correspondents could be assured of ample notice in advance of the Secretary-General's announcement of his plans later this week, Mr. Powell said as much notice as possible would be given, and that the needs of correspondents were very much in his mind.

In response to a question regarding a news report suggesting that U Thant had agreed to stay another full term, Mr. Nassif said it was the usual custom for the Secretary-General to refrain from commenting on published news reports. To other questions on this matter, Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had no intention of holding a Press conference this week, and he knew of no Security Council meeting scheduled for this week.

In answer to another question, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's statement was issued in response to official announcements. He added that the statement was prepared before the Republic of Viet-Nam issued a press release on the matter. He added that U Thant took no part in the truce negotiations, as far as he was aware.

On other subjects, Mr. Powell said he would have to make inquiries regarding a reference made in the Fourth Committee yesterday on United Nations investigations of alleged shooting across the Congo-Portuguese Angola border. He stated that he had no information regarding rumours that France and the Soviet Union were about to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations budget.

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1 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell, at the OPI press briefing today, said that no announcement was expected today from the Secretary-General regarding the extension of his term of office. Possibly, the announcement will be made tomorrow.

At 5:45 p.m. today, the Secretary-General will accept a gift of a painting from the Prime Minister of Malta.

In response to a previous question he said that a communication had been received from the Organization of American States. Circulation as a Security Council document had been requested in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter.

In reply to a question regarding "negotiations" between the Secretary-General and the members of the Security Council, he said that he did not know of such negotiations.

He said, in reply to another question, that no meeting of the Security Council is presently scheduled.

A question was asked what was the general policy regarding the acceptance of gifts by the United Nations, since the building was acquiring the look of "un-coordinated museum".

Mr. Powell replied that all the gifts presented by Governments so far had found a suitable place in the building, and, undoubtedly, suitable space will be found for future gifts from Member States.

In reply to a question, he said that the General Assembly was still scheduled to end its work by 20 December and that night meetings of Committees would be scheduled as necessary to maintain the pace of the work.

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5 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Security Council would meet this week, possibly on Wednesday, on the application from Barbados for admission to membership of the United Nations.

Mr. Powell said a document issued on 1 December indicated that the Secretary-General was prepared to nominate Abdel-Rahman as Executive-Secretary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Plenary action, he explained, was expected this week, possibly at its meeting on Tuesday afternoon. //

In the first reading of the budget estimates on building and maintenance in the Fifth Committee, this afternoon, said Mr. Powell, a statement by the Secretary-General would be read by Bruce Turner.

A number of questions were asked on the subject of the current Newsweek article on Viet-Nam.

On the question of the article's veracity, Ramses Nassif said he could only confirm that U Thant had had a conversation with Emmet John Hughes of Newsweek, and that the article was substantially accurate.

He added, in reply to another question, that the conversation occurred three weeks ago.

Asked whether permission for the use of direct quotes was obtained from the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said he could not add to what he had already said.

Questioned about a published report reputedly quoting the United States Administration to the effect that it had made two attempts to contact Hanoi, but that U Thant had failed to establish contact for them, he replied that he had no comment to make on this report.

Asked about published reports regarding plans for the Secretary-General to visit South East Asia, Mr. Nassif said that some correspondents had spoken to U Thant briefly in the lobby on Saturday morning. The Secretary-General, he stated, had told a questioner that he had no travel plans for the moment and, to a further question on whether he might contemplate a trip to that area in the future, he had replied that nothing could be ruled out.

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To a question on whether the Secretary-General had replied to President Johnson's message congratulating him on his re-appointment, Mr. Nassif said that U Thant would be acknowledging all such messages personally. Asked about the possibility of the Secretary-General holding a press conference, he replied that U Thant planned to hold a press conference in the first week of January.

Regarding conversations between Mr. Kuznetsov of the Soviet Union and the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said that U Thant had talked with the Soviet official for 55 minutes on Monday and for 30 minutes on Saturday, when the First Deputy Foreign Minister had made a courtesy call on the Secretary-General. On the subject of the conversations, Mr. Nassif said they had discussed several important questions. Asked specifically whether Viet-Nam had come up, he replied that he assumed it had.

Asked for comment by the Secretary-General on a New York Post story last Friday on the possibility of France and the Soviet Union making voluntary contributions to the United Nations budget, Mr. Nassif said U Thant did not want to say anything beyond what he had said in his statement of last Friday.

Asked for comment by the Secretary-General on the staffing of the Secretariat, Mr. Powell said that there was nothing to add beyond the comments of the Director of Personnel during the discussions in the Fifth Committee.

In response to a request, Mr. Powell said he would try to arrange a press briefing by Mr. Abdel-Rahman after his appointment as Executive-Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization has been confirmed by the Assembly. //

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6 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said no time or date had yet been set for the Security Council meeting requested by the United Kingdom. The current thinking, he added, was that it was likely to take place on Thursday, rather than tomorrow, but this would be determined in the light of consultations being held by the President of the Security Council. Tomorrow morning, he said, the Council is scheduled to meet on the admission of Barbados.

Among the Secretary-General's appointments today, said Mr. Powell, were visits by Mr. Kuznetsov, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, and the Ambassadors of Ceylon, Greece, Canada and Australia; he understood that all appointments were at their request.

Mr. Powell said arrangements were being made for I.H. Abdel-Rahman to meet the Press at 3 p.m. tomorrow if no Security Council meeting is arranged for that time. He said that tickets were available to correspondents for the Human Rights Day concert to be held in the General Assembly Hall Saturday evening.

Asked about the progress of the Cocoa Conference consultations, Mr. Powell said it had been thought that the conference might end today, but it was more likely to continue tomorrow. He added that a communique might be issued at its conclusion.

In response to a question, Mr. Powell said he would look into the matter of when the East River-Turtle Bay Fund's suggestion regarding the United Nations buildings' expansion would come up in the Fifth Committee.

Asked about the subjects being discussed, in the light of Mr. Kuznetsov's third appointment with the Secretary-General, Ramses Nassif said U Thant and the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister had a number of important things to discuss. He could not elaborate.

Questioned about possible changes being made by the Secretary-General in his cabinet, Mr. Nassif said he had no knowledge of any possible changes.

Replying to a question as to when a voluntary Soviet contribution to the United Nations would be announced, Mr. Powell said that as soon as OPI was informed of any contributions to any United Nations fund, a press release would be issued.

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Asked about a biography of Mr. Abdel-Rahman, Mr. Powell said one would be available this afternoon.

Questioned about a UPI report of North Viet-Nam peace feelers, Mr. Nassif said he had no comment.

Questioned about the role of the Secretary-General in any sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Powell said this would have to wait until the form of any resolution adopted by the Council was known. Asked how sanctions would be imposed under Charter Article 41, he said Repertory of Practice of UN Organs spelled out any precedents in the matter and this was available in the Hammarkjold Library. Later, in response to further requests for the relevant information from the Repertory, Mr. Powell said he would look into the question of reproducing that part of the Repertory for the use of correspondents.

Asked about renewal of the UNFICYP mandate, Mr. Powell said a report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council was due, possibly this week. Regarding reported arms shipments to Cyprus, he said he had nothing on this, though if there was anything to these reports it might conceivably be in the Secretary-General's report.

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7 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the General Assembly was likely to act on the admission of Barbados on Friday, and it would probably be the first item of business. The flag-raising ceremony, he added, was tentatively fixed to take place at noon on Friday. The Prime Minister of Barbados was believed to be coming in time to make the General Assembly speech, he said.

He reminded correspondents that the newly-appointed Executive-Director of UNIDO, Abdel-Rahman, would hold a press conference in Room 226 at 3:15 p.m. today. A background press release on UNIDO would be issued in time for the press conference, he added.

Mr. Powell said that final action by the Third Committee on the two draft Covenants on Human Rights was expected this morning or afternoon. General Assembly action, however, would probably not take place before next week, because of the financial implications of the Covenants, he added, which the Fifth Committee would first have to take action upon. A press release giving the background to the Third Committee action on the Covenants would be issued when the vote had taken place, he said.

The Cocoa Conference could end today, said Mr. Powell; but it was also possible that it might not finish until tomorrow. It was not yet certain, he went on, whether a communique would be issued or a press conference would be held when this happened.

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General's appointments included meetings with the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, at the close of the Security Council meeting, and the Yugoslav Ambassador, at 5:00 p.m. He added that U Thant would give a reception at 6:00 p.m. for the United States astronaut, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr.

Ramses Nassif said that the guest list would include Mayor Lindsay, members of the Outer Space Committee, the General Assembly President, the President of the Security Council, six members of the United States Mission, led by Ambassador Goldberg, five members of the Soviet Mission, headed by Minister Kuznetsov, the Chairmen of the General Assembly Committees, the acting President of UNCA, and Under-Secretaries.

(more)

Mr. Powell mentioned that, while the list of speakers in the First Committee was to close at 1:00 p.m. today, 15 countries were already listed to speak. The debate on non-intervention would probably end on Friday, he added, with a vote taking place on Monday.

Asked what African countries were listed to participate in the Security Council debate on Rhodesia, Mr. Powell said that, as far as he knew, Senegal and Zambia had made requests, but this was not necessarily a complete listing.

Mr. Nassif was asked about a statement made by the Secretary-General at a luncheon yesterday. He replied that U Thant responded to a toast made by Ambassador El Kony (United Arab Republic) at a luncheon given in his honour by the Ambassador at the St. Regis. Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General's statement was:

"I am grateful to Ambassador El Kony for his appreciation and kind words about me.

"Some of my very close colleagues and well-meaning friends had some doubts about the propriety of the reversal of this decision. This is not the occasion to explain it in detail.

"But I just want to say that, because of the overwhelming weight of public opinion, I felt I had no other alternative but to make the decision which I did last Friday. Of course, I can assure you, friends and colleagues, that so long as I am Secretary-General it shall be my constant endeavour to work for the fulfillment of the objectives which I had explained at some length in my statement of September 1."

Asked about the topics discussed with the Secretary-General by Mr. Kuznetsov on his three visits, Mr. Nassif said that he was authorized to say only that they discussed several important questions of mutual interest to the United Nations and to the Soviet Union, including Viet-Nam.

To a question whether he could say something about moves by certain countries to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations, Mr. Nassif said nothing could be added to the Secretary-General's statement made last Friday in the General Assembly.

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8 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that, as of this morning, there was no definitive list of speakers for the Security Council debate on Rhodesia. The United Kingdom Foreign Secretary might be the only speaker, he added, although two non-members of the Security Council, Zambia and Senegal, had asked to participate in the discussion.

Referring to the Secretary-General document issued today on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, which contained a request for a six-month extension of the mandate, Mr. Powell said this matter was likely to be considered by the Security Council about the middle of next week, depending on other business.

Mr. Powell announced that Errol Barrow, the Prime Minister of Barbados, would make a statement in the General Assembly tomorrow following the admission of his country to the United Nations, and would attend the flag raising ceremony, which would take place at 2:55 p.m. Friday.

He drew attention to a conference organized by the Centre for Industrial Development which opens tomorrow at Headquarters on experiments in obtaining fertilizer from natural gas. The meetings would be closed and would end on 20 December, he added, but a press release would be issued tomorrow.

Mr. Powell also announced that at 3:30 today Princess Ashraf, the sister of the Shah of Iran, would hold a Press conference in Room 226 on UNESCO's campaign for universal literacy. He added that the Princess had spoken this morning in the Second Committee.

Asked whether the Security Council had received a request from Salisbury to be heard in the Rhodesia debate, Mr. Powell said no request had been received by the Secretary-General. Although he understood that a number of Security Council members had received individual requests from the groups in Salisbury, no communication had been addressed officially to the President of the Security Council, he added.

(more)

Questioned about the Secretary-General's reaction to the Pope's statement on the Viet-Nam truce, Ramses Nassif read a prepared statement as follows:

"The Secretary-General very much appreciates the motivation behind the appeal of His Holiness. Mindful of the fact that continued intensification of the war could lead to a point of no return, the Secretary-General sincerely hopes that the parties directly involved in the Viet-Nam war will heed the Pope's appeal."

Mr. Nassif drew correspondents' attention to the 2 December statement made by U Thant on this subject, and the statement of 30 November issued on his behalf.

Asked whether the Secretary-General was doing anything himself to prolong the truce, Mr. Nassif said he could not answer without further guidance. Questioned as to how the Secretary-General dealt with the National Liberation Front in Viet-Nam, since it was they who issued the truce appeal, he replied that he could not answer this question.

To a further question, Mr. Nassif said the Pope had informed the Secretary-General in advance of his latest appeal on prolonging the truce.

Asked about a report from Jakarta to the effect that Indonesia would not implement the General Assembly resolution on a plebiscite in West Irian, Mr. Powell said he understood that an enquiry had been made to the Indonesian Mission, but that no reply had yet been received. To a further question, he said this enquiry of the Mission had been made by the Secretary-General's office.

Mrs. Janet McNeil said the Centre for Industrial Development conference would be opened tomorrow at 10 a.m. by Mr. Abdel-Rahman, Commissioner for Industrial Development. The opening ceremony would be open to all, she added, though the subsequent meetings would be closed.

Asked whether he could throw any further light on Mr. Kuznetsov's conversations with the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said he could add nothing to the statement he made yesterday to the effect that they had discussed matters of mutual interest to the United Nations and the Soviet Union, including Viet-Nam.

In response to a question whether the Secretary-General had received pledges of commitments regarding action in Viet-Nam before accepting a further term, Mr. Nassif said he could not answer that.

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9 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that by 1:00 p.m. the OPI would issue an embargoed press release containing a statement by the Secretary-General on World Population problems and including a declaration on population growth and human dignity signed by a number of Heads of State.

In answer to a question, Mr. Powell said that the signatures to the declaration had been collected by John D. Rockefeller 3rd. The Secretary-General had been asked to circulate the declaration, which he was doing in the form of the press release.

Mr. Powell also called attention to releases which would be issued during the course of the day containing the texts of the Secretary-General's remarks at the flag-raising ceremony and in the Third Committee on the occasion of UNICEF's 20th anniversary. He also said that the text of the President's statement at the Human Rights Day concert would be issued today embargoed for delivery on Saturday evening.

He called attention to the UNICEF release concerning the visit of a Bolivian Indian Boy to the Secretary-General this morning.

Asked about the visit to the Secretary-General by Dr. Benjamin Spock this morning, Ramses Nassif said that Dr. Spock together with two other representatives of SANE (Committee for a sane nuclear policy). Gunnar Myrdal and Donald F. Keys had called on the Secretary-General to deliver to him a letter indicating their support for his efforts to end the Viet-Nam conflict. The Secretary-General had expressed his appreciation and thanks for their moral support and pledged to continue his efforts for a just and peaceful solution to the war in Viet-Nam.

In answer to a question concerning the space treaty, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General is studying the draft treaty on outer space and he proposes to make a formal statement on this matter next week.

In reply to another question, Mr. Nassif said he had no knowledge that the Secretary-General was planning to attend a dinner tonight in connexion with a statement on world population problems.

Mr. Powell said that the First Committee was likely to reach a vote on the current item (96) on Monday following the meetings today and tomorrow. He had no further information on the outcome of the closed meetings on cocoa. He also had no information on any moves to reactivate the Collective Measures Committee. In reply to another question, he said that the role of the Secretariat in sanctions against Rhodesia, according to the terms of the United Kingdom draft resolution, would be confined to the receipt and publication of information from Governments concerning the action they had taken in implementation (more)

of the resolution.

Mr. Powell called attention to three releases to be issued this afternoon on a forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Committee on Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, on the opening of a meeting on the production of natural gas fertilizers, and on the closing session of a series of meetings on the maintenance of industrial machinery.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

12 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced today that the Human Rights Covenants will come up for Plenary action on the morning of Friday, 16 December, and that the Security Council was scheduled to meet on the question of Cyprus on the morning of Thursday, 15 December, developments on the Rhodesia item permitting.

Senegal and the United States were the only speakers so far scheduled to speak in the Council today.

Mr. Powell then announced that the Secretary-General's appointments for today were with the Permanent Representatives of Turkey and Barbados (presentation of credentials). He called attention to the meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders which, though closed, was being attended by very important specialists in the criminology field. The related press release was SOC/3469.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said he had no information on amendments to the United Kingdom resolution on the question of Rhodesia.

In response to a question about the speech by Mr. Prebisch in the Second Committee on Friday, Mr. Powell answered that he would inquire when the statement would be released as a document.

Ramses Nassif was asked for the Secretary-General's comment on the "spelling out of the length of the Pope's truce proposal" and said that there was nothing to be added to the Secretary-General's statement of ~~28~~ 8 Dec. ~~November~~. Asked for the Secretary-General's reaction to the reported escalation of the Viet-Nam conflict, Mr. Nassif replied that there was no comment on that particular report, but the Secretary-General's views on escalation of the conflict were well known.

Questioned about nominations for the South West Africa Committee, Mr. Powell said that 14 countries had agreed to serve, that six had submitted nominations, but that the names had not yet been published.

In reply to a question about President Johnson's statement of his interest in the United Nations convening a copper conference in January, Mr. Powell answered that he had heard of nothing new on the matter, but that he would look into it.

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13 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced at his briefing today that plenary action on the two human rights covenants has been re-scheduled, but that no new time had been fixed as yet. He said that Mr. Prebisch's statement on Friday, 9 December, was now out as a document, (A/C.2/L.937).

Replying to an inquiry put to him at yesterday's briefing, Mr. Powell reported that there had been no request from the United States for the convening of a copper conference by the United Nations.

He called attention to the meeting of the Security Council scheduled for Thursday on the question of Cyprus and to an addendum to the related report concerning the importation of arms.

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General had sent a message of condolence to the Permanent Representative of Greece concerning the Greek ferry boat tragedy. It would be circulated as a press release today.

Mr. Powell announced the receipt of a letter from the Permanent Observer of Switzerland stating that the Swiss Government was donating one million Swiss francs to UNIDO.

Questioned about postponement of Assembly adjournment, he said the Assembly was on schedule and adjournment was expected on 20 December. He would make no predictions about an earlier adjournment.

Mr. Nassif said that a delegation of United States Congressmen would call on the Secretary-General in his office today at 2:45 p.m.

Questioned about the release of the annual report of the Security Council, Mr. Powell said that he would look into the reproduction of it, but was certain that it would not be released in parts.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

14 December 1966

OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced to the press that the addendum to the Cyprus report, document S/7611, concerning the importation of arms to Cyprus, had been distributed. He announced that, in response to journalists' requests, a briefing on the United Nations Capital Development Fund would be given today at 2:30 p.m. by Mr. Karl Lachmann of the Fiscal and Financial Branch Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The CDF will come in to being in 1968, Mr. Powell explained and the next General Assembly will elect a Board of Governors. The Secretary-General will appoint a Managing Director, he added.

Concerning Plenary action on the Human Rights Covenants, which had originally been scheduled for Friday, then unscheduled, as he announced yesterday, Mr. Powell confirmed that General Assembly action was now re-scheduled and the Covenants will go before the Plenary on Friday. The Secretary-General will make a statement following their adoption.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said he had no news concerning reports from the Middle East on possible withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force troops.

Mr. Ramses Nassif was asked for a Secretary-General comment on news of the bombing of Hanoi and said that the Secretary-General had only read the news dispatches and no detailed reports of the bombing. Until then, the Secretary-General will have no comment, Mr. Nassif added that the Secretary-General's views on the bombing of the North are well known.

Mr. Nassif was asked for Secretary-General comment on Senator Mansfield's proposal for an extension of the Christmas - New Year cease-fire in Viet Nam and gave the following comment:

"The Secretary-General believes that his three-point plan alone can create conditions congenial for conducting discussions and negotiations. Therefore, he feels that the acceptance of Senator Mansfield's proposal, made yesterday, could help in this direction."

(more)

Asked if the Secretary-General felt that Hanoi had not turned down his plan, Mr. Nassif had no comment.

In reference to the Secretary-General's use of the word "discussions" in his statement, as read by Mr. Nassif, an inquirer wanted to know if this were the first time that the word "discussions" had been used, in that context. Mr. Nassif explained that the Secretary-General had used the word before, in replying to a question put to him by the inquirer during a press conference.

Mr. Powell was asked about the Outer Space Treaty and said he knew of no text within the house and until the Chairman of the Committee presented one, there would be no comment.

A biography of Mr. Goldschmidt was requested and Mr. Powell promised one. To a question on the Cyprus issue, Mr. Powell directed the inquirer's attention to paragraph one of the new report for an answer. Asked if the addendum came about as a result of delegation activity, Mr. Powell explained that it was on the initiative of the Secretary-General.

Replying to a question about the jewels which were donated by the Pope, Mr. Powell informed journalists that the Parke-Bernet Galleries were preparing to auction them early next year.

To an additional question about Outer Space, Mr. Powell promised to look into possibilities for a briefing. Asked about the meeting schedule of the South West Africa Committee, Mr. Powell explained that not all of the 14 delegations had nominated their candidates. Six of the 14 had, he explained.

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15 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General had appointments today with the Permanent Representatives of Mauritania, Bulgaria and the Foreign Minister of Senegal.

Today's meeting of the Security Council, he said, had been postponed until 4 p.m. due to the General Assembly Members' tributes to the late Ambassador Belaunde. He announced that there would also be statements by the President of the General Assembly, by the Secretary-General and that one minute of silence would be observed in memory of the late Mr. Belaunde. Spokesmen for regional groups will also be heard.

Mr. Powell informed the press that the Human Rights Covenants will come before the Plenary tomorrow morning and that Marc Schreiber, Director of the Division of Human Rights and the Chairman of the Third Committee will give a joint briefing to correspondents tomorrow at 2:30* on the Human Rights Covenants.

He announced that the Second Committee will hold a meeting this evening in Conference Room 2.

Replying to a question, Mr. Powell said he did not know if the addendum to the Cyprus report would affect the length of debate in the Security Council.

He said, in response to an inquiry, that he had not seen a resolution on the Cyprus question yet, but one could be expected soon.

Ramses Nassif was asked for a comment by the Secretary-General on the bombing of Hanoi, and he read the following comment on Viet-Nam:

"The Secretary-General on a number of occasions has expressed his conviction that the first step in the search for peace in Viet-Nam should be the cessation of the bombing of the North. He has also voiced his opposition to any form of military escalation in Viet-Nam. Against this background the Secretary-General cannot but deplore the loss of lives and the worsening of the situation resulting from the intensification of the bombing of North Viet-Nam. He is deeply concerned that if this trend were allowed to continue it might lead to a wider war with dangerous consequences".

(more)

* Later changed to 2:45 p.m.

Asked if this message had been transmitted to the United States Government, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. Complying with a request for reference to the Secretary-General's statement of 29 June on the bombing of populated areas, Mr. Nassif read:

"The Secretary-General on a number of occasions has said that, in his view, the first step towards peace in Viet-Nam should be the cessation of bombing North Viet-Nam. He has therefore read, with deep regret, the reports of the bombing of the heavily populated areas of Haiphong and Hanoi".

To a further question about whether "loss of lives" meant the general conflict or Hanoi, Mr. Nassif said in North Viet-Nam, explaining that in earlier statements concerning loss of life, the Secretary-General had referred to the general loss, be the lives American, Viet-Cong or South Viet-Nam. He said he had no answer to a question about the Secretary-General having any tally of lives lost so far -- civilian or military.

A correspondent wished to know, in the light of the Secretary-General's statement made at the time of his re-election, in which he reserved the right to bring serious situations to the attention of the Security Council, if the statement of today, made to the Press, could be regarded as the Press replacing the Council, in terms of hearing Secretary-General statements. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's views on that are well known and that he has no intention of bringing the Viet-Nam question to the Security Council.

Asked if the Soviet Union agreed to the Secretary-General's three-point proposal, Mr. Nassif said he would try to find out.

He added that the Secretary-General feels that his three-point plan will create conditions congenial for discussions. Mr. Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General thought that the Viet-Nam issue should not be in the United Nations and answered "yes".

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16 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Mr. Powell announced that Roberto Huertamatte, representing the Secretary-General, will be aboard the Belaúnde funeral plane and will attend the services in Peru. The Secretary-General attended the Requiem Mass at Holy Family Church this morning, Mr. Powell said, and the Secretary-General will speak in plenary today on the Human Rights Covenants. He announced that the Security Council report to the General Assembly is out in mimeographed form as document A/6302, and that there will be a briefing at 2:45* on the Human Rights Covenants by Mark Schrieber and the Chairman of the Third Committee.

He informed journalists that the resumed Economic and Social Council session will begin tomorrow, continue through Monday and Tuesday and will receive the reports of the Bank, Fund and the IDA.

Mr. Schweitzer, of the Fund, will speak on Monday and Mr. Woods, of the Bank, on Tuesday. He said that the meetings on Crime and on Fertilizer will end today.

To a question raised about an item in Leonard Lyons' column concerning the rumored resignation of Dr. Bunche and the Secretary-General's reported opposition to it, Mr. Powell cited a previous statement of Dr. Bunche which quotes him as saying that when he has anything to say, he will do the talking himself.

Journalists wanted to know if, through the International Control Commission, it could be found out what is going on in Hanoi, and Mr. Nassif reminded them that the ICC is not a United Nations body and repeated that there would be no comments on Viet-Nam today.

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* Later postponed until Monday at 2:45 p.m.

19 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Mr. Powell announced that Ambassador Goldberg had seen the Secretary-General this morning at 10:30 at his own request.

He drew journalists' attention to the resumed session of the Economic and Social Council and to the statements to be made before it today and tomorrow by the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the Bank.

He reminded the press corps of the briefing on the Human Rights Covenants which is scheduled for this afternoon, where Marc Schreiber, Director of the Division of Human Rights and Mrs. H.E. Warzazi, Chairman of the Third Committee, will meet with correspondents. He said that the Human Rights Covenants will be opened for signature this afternoon at 3:30 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber and that the Philippines, Israel and Cyprus are expected to sign.

Mr. Powell announced that Norway had contributed \$100,000 to UNFICYP for the period 26 June to 26 December 1966 and \$20,000 toward the deficit in the UNFICYP account.

He said that the Secretary-General would speak in the Assembly this afternoon after the adoption of the Outer Space resolution.

Asked about the appointment of the members of the Committee for South West Africa, Mr. Powell informed the journalist that nine nominations had been received and five more were forthcoming.

Asked for a definitive interpretation of the Security Council resolution on Rhodesia, he said he would try to arrange for a member of the Legal Department to give one.

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20 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Mr. Powell informed correspondents that the statement to be made by the President of the General Assembly on the conclusion of the current session would be released today; that the Secretary-General's appointments had been posted; that Mr. Woods, President of the International Bank, spoke in the Economic and Social Council this morning, and that his text was available. He drew journalists' attention to page five of Mr. Wood's speech, concerning IDA finances (they need more money) and to page six requesting that developing countries formulate a common development policy.

He announced that there would be no briefing tomorrow because the Secretary-General would be addressing the staff at briefing time. However, he promised that the Secretary-General's remarks would be broadcast over the six-point system.

Asked whether the Secretary-General had any comment on Mr. Goldberg's letter yesterday, Mr. Nassif said that in the Secretary-General's speech to the General Assembly, of 2 December, he had said he would make every effort, on a personal basis, to promote a peaceful solution to the Viet-Nam conflict and that he would do so privately. To another question, he added that the Secretary-General still believed that his three-point plan should be the basis for conducting discussions and negotiations.

Correspondents asked how the Secretary-General could react "personally and privately" to an official letter from an Ambassador which the Ambassador had requested be circulated as a Security Council document. Mr. Nassif explained that Mr. Goldberg's letter was being carefully studied by the Secretary-General.

Journalists kept returning to their "quandary" as to how the Secretary-General could reconcile his personal responses to an official Security Council document and Mr. Powell pointed out that the Secretary-General's remarks concerning his Viet-Nam attitudes are contained in an "A" document (2 December) in which he stated that he would react on a personal basis.

Correspondents asked whether Mr. Goldberg had written to the Secretary-General as a private person or as the Head of the United Nations, and Mr. Nassif replied that such a qualification pertained to Mr. Goldberg and not to the Secretary-General. They asked what was meant by a "personal basis". Mr. Nassif said it meant in a "private capacity".

Asked if the Secretary-General would report his findings to any organ of the United Nations, Mr. Nassif said he would not, since the United Nations was not involved in the Viet-Nam conflict. He quoted the Secretary-General's observations on the Pope's appeal for peace.

(more)

After further questions as to whether the Secretary-General's three-point plan was the answer to Mr. Goldberg's letter, journalists also asked whether the Secretary-General would give a public answer to Mr. Goldberg's public letter. Mr. Nassif said that no answer was required.

Correspondents sought an explanation of the Secretary-General's "stance" in this official letter and his "going into private negotiations about it", referring to the Federenko appointment yesterday.

Mr. Nassif reminded them that the Press Division had never announced anything on the substance of the Federenko appointment.

Asked whether the Secretary-General was aware that this morning's New York Times carried the comment that the United States had abandoned hope of the Secretary-General's doing anything before he even got started, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General did not react to newspaper articles. To a further question as to whether the Secretary-General had heard the broadcast from Radio Moscow about Mr. Goldberg's letter and U Thant's response, Mr. Nassif promised that he would inquire into the matter.

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21 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing, held at 11:45 a.m. today, William Powell announced that the Secretary-General would hold a press conference at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 January 1967.

He then drew attention to press releases, issued today, announcing the extension of the appointments of Paul G. Hoffman and David Owen, as Administrator and Co-Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and of Lieut. General Ilmari Armas Eino Martola as Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

He said that the Secretary-General announced with regret the resignation, effective 5 January 1967, of Carlos A. Bernardes, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cyprus, for "pressing personal reasons". Until the appointment of a new Special Representative, he said, P.P. Spinelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, would serve in the post temporarily.

In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General's statement to the staff at noon today would be carried on the internal six-point system. The General Assembly's special session on South West Africa was expected to last three weeks.

Ramses Nassif was asked about the Secretary-General's attitude toward the latest developments on Viet-Nam, such as the reported rejection of United Nations efforts by Peking and the reaction of Soviet Ambassador Fedorenko.

Mr. Nassif replied that the Secretary-General had no comment. As he had said yesterday, whatever the Secretary-General was doing toward a peaceful settlement in Viet-Nam he was doing "privately and quietly".

Asked for comment on a report that the Secretary-General had not in the last few days insisted on his three-point plan, Mr. Nassif recalled his statement yesterday that "the Secretary-General believes his three-point plan alone can create conditions congenial for the conduct of discussions and negotiations".

"I said that yesterday and I am saying that again today", said Mr. Nassif.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

22 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell stated that during the forthcoming Christmas holiday weekend, the duty officers would be at home on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. However, inasmuch as the Secretary-General would be at Headquarters on Friday morning, 23 December, the duty officer would be at the office during that period.

In reply to a question, Ramses Nassif said that the appointments would be announced only tomorrow, in accordance with the usual practice.

A number of questions were asked about the Secretary-General's views on various reports about his current activities with regard to Viet-Nam. To all these questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no comment and that whatever the Secretary-General was doing on this matter he was doing "quietly and privately". To a question about United States Secretary of State Den Rusk's press conference yesterday, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had "noted Mr. Rusk's kind remarks with appreciation". Asked about the Secretary-General's travel plans, he said that the Secretary-General had "none whatsoever at this time". Asked if the Secretary-General was in contact with the United States Government, Mr. Nassif said that he was. Asked if the Secretary-General had been in contact with the Soviet and Algerian Ambassadors since Monday, Mr. Nassif said that he did not know but would find out. Asked if the Secretary-General stood by his position that the Viet-Cong should have a place at the negotiating table, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General "stands by his three points, as I have been saying every day".

Gohl Obhrai, Director of the Press, Publications and Public Services Division of the Office of Public Information, then introduced Jiri Nosek, Under-Secretary, in charge of the Office of Conference Services, who gave correspondents information on the number of meetings, the number of pages printed, and other data on the recently-concluded session of the General Assembly. (For details, see Note to Correspondents No. 3329.)

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27 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell called attention to the Secretary-General's New Year's message contained in press release SG/SM/632.

Ramses Nassif stated that the Secretary-General had an appointment this morning with five representatives of the Women's Strike for Peace. During this 40-minute meeting a "free and frank" discussion on the Viet-Nam conflict took place, and the Secretary-General expressed appreciation for the Organization's efforts in the cause of peace.

Asked whether there had been any developments concerning the 14-member Committee on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said that 12 out of 14 replies had been received with regard to the representatives who are to serve on this Committee.

Asked when UNIDO would move its headquarters to Vienna, Mr. Powell said that the change would not take place at least for a few weeks.

In reply to a further question, Mr. Powell said that the nature and form of the Secretary-General's report referred to in the Southern Rhodesian resolution, was being studied.

In reply to another question concerning the Secretary-General's reaction to the Viet-Nam situation, Mr. Nassif referred to the Secretary-General's statement of 23 December. U Thant had said then: "Now is the time for quiet and secret diplomacy. I will have something to say at the proper time."

In reply to a further question, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no plans for a visit to South-East Asia.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

28 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell informed correspondents that the French text of the Secretary-General's New Year's message would soon be available.

Ramses Nassif stated that in his meeting with U Thant this morning, McGeorge Bundy, President of the Ford Foundation, had introduced Eugene Staples, who will be in charge of United Nations affairs at the Foundation. There had been no political discussions at the meeting.

With regard to the announcement of a new nuclear explosion by the Chinese, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General considered that any atomic explosion by any country anywhere was to be regretted, in the context of General Assembly resolutions on this subject.

Replying to questions on the Secretary-General's efforts concerning Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that whatever the Secretary-General was doing was being done privately and quietly. He would have nothing to say about these efforts at this time.

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

29 December 1966

At the regular OPI Press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif was asked whether the Secretary-General had any reaction to the possibility that doubts about the "credibility" of the United States would affect his peace-making efforts, inasmuch as they had been linked together. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had "no reaction regarding what you are saying". At the risk of sounding redundant, he would repeat that what the Secretary-General was doing on this matter he was doing "quietly and privately". The Secretary-General would make some kind of announcement regarding his efforts at the appropriate time. Mr. Nassif said he hoped to be more specific at the briefing tomorrow noon, 30 December.

To a question as to whether the Secretary-General "expects to receive something tomorrow", Mr. Nassif said he was not saying anything like that.

Asked if the Secretary-General was in touch with Ambassador Goldberg of the United States, Mr. Nassif said he had "nothing to say on this".

To other questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no travel plans at present. A private trip to the Caribbean had been suggested, but he had decided against it now. He would be at home on New Year's Eve.

In reply to questions on other matters, William Powell said that two of the 14 members of the Committee on South West Africa had not yet named their representatives. The two were Czechoslovakia and the United States. The initial meeting of the Committee would be convened by the Secretary-General. After the election of officers, the Committee would decide on its work programme and on whether its meetings would be open or closed.

To a question as to whether South Africa had sent any voluntary information on South West Africa, in accordance with its announced intention, Mr. Powell said he would check.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

30 December 1966

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif informed correspondents that the text of the Secretary-General's reply to the letter of 19 December from Ambassador Goldberg of the United States would be issued around 11 a.m. tomorrow, 31 December, as a Security Council document, for immediate release. It would be available in English and French.

In reply to questions, he said that it might go to Council members a little earlier than that. He had not seen the letter and had no indication of its length or contents. It would be dated 31 December. There would be no briefing tomorrow.

To a question about the Secretary-General's reaction to a London Economist editorial stating that, if the United States stopped the bombing and Hanoi did nothing, the situation might be worse than ever, Mr. Nassif said that the correspondent would do well to await the letter tomorrow and see the Secretary-General's thinking on the whole matter.

To several correspondents who asked whether the letter could not be made available today, Mr. Nassif replied that some things were more important than others. The letter was more important than personal convenience.

At this morning's briefing, a number of questions were asked about a New York Times story this morning headlined "Czech on the U.N.'s Staff Facing Dismissal as Spy Against U.S." In reply, William Powell said that the Secretary-General had received conflicting reports regarding a staff member of Czechoslovak nationality and had the matter under study. He could not confirm the accuracy of any of the statements in the article. The staff member concerned had professional status but was not high-ranking. He did not have diplomatic immunity.

(more)

Asked if the man was still on the United Nations staff, Mr. Powell said that he was "not in the building at the present time". Asked if he had gone back to Czechoslovakia, Mr. Powell said, "not that I am aware of". No, he would not "check". He could not say who had first brought the matter to the attention of the Secretary-General. The procedure in such cases was for the Secretary-General to consult the Director of Personnel and the chief of the department concerned. He would not say in which department the man was employed.

To a correspondent who asked why the name of the man was not given, since there were about 30 staff members of Czechoslovak nationality who might be under suspicion, Mr. Powell said he was under instructions not to give the name. The appointment of the Czechoslovak ambassador with the Secretary-General this morning had been at the request of the former, and it was not known what they had discussed.

On other matters, Mr. Powell gave a schedule of forthcoming meetings, which had been requested.

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MISCELLANEOUS PRESS BRIEFINGS

13 September 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY U SOE TIN (BURMA)

U Soe Tin, new Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, told UNCA club members this afternoon that although he was a career foreign service official, this was his first foreign assignment. He said, however, that he had been associated with the United Nations' activities in earlier years. He attended the United Nations meetings in Paris in 1948 and also in New York in 1953.

U Soe Tin said that he had been trying to acquaint himself with the work of the United Nations. "I've much to learn," he observed.

The Ambassador of Burma said that his country's foreign policy was one of friendship with all.

"We are neither anti-this nor pro-that," he said, adding, "We are neither anti-China, or pro-China, neither anti-Soviet nor pro-Soviet, neither anti-United States nor pro-United States."

Replying to a question on Burma's attitude towards the war in South Viet-Nam, U Soe Tin said: "War to us is something to be detested. Whether it is in Southeast Asia, Northwest Africa or the South Pole, it concerns all humanity."

Replying to other queries he made the following remarks:

U Thant, to us, is first the Secretary-General of the United Nations, an international civil servant, and then a Burmese.

Burma has given de facto, not de jure, recognition to both the South and the North Viet-Nam regimes since 1954. The Viet-Cong is not represented in Burma and Burma had no "underhand" dealings with them.

One can act as a mediator only if the parties concerned asked one to do so. So far, none of the parties concerned have asked Burma to act as a mediator in the Viet-Nam war.

(more)

If the majority of the United Nations Members join the move of the Philippines President to draft U Thant, Burma will go along with other fellow members. But he didn't think a mere draft will make U Thant change his mind. Some steps to improve the world situation, however, might help him reconsider his position. "If I were in his place, I would do so," he said.

Surely, I would like to see a friend as the chief of the United Nations, he added. "I don't think we have closed the doors of Burma to anyone, particularly to the sons of Burma". U Thant will be welcome if and when he decided to return to Burma, he said.

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3 October 1966

PRESS CONFERENCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER OF NORWAY

At an off-the-record talk with the members of UNCA, John Lyng, Foreign Minister of Norway, said that his country considered the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as the single most important issue today. He said that the principle of non-proliferation should also apply to sharing of nuclear weapons by the members of an alliance.

Mr. Lyng stated that Norway, which was a member of NATO alliance, would give preference to non-proliferation over sharing of nuclear weapons by alliance members. Strategic consultation could be done without sharing of nuclear weapons.

He said his Government was against giving any greater say to any member of NATO alliance over the use of nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Minister declined to comment on the Soviet proposal to seat both the East and the West Germany in the United Nations and also on U Thant's proposal to enlarge the Observers group to include both the East and the West Germany.

On Viet-Nam, he said that foreign ministers of Scandinavian countries had discussed this issue but he did not think that they could do any thing about it. He would not discuss Viet-Nam with the Soviet leaders during his forthcoming visit to Moscow.

Replying to a question, he said that his Government hoped they would not have to face the problem of finding a successor to U Thant. But if U Thant declined to accept re-nomination, he said they had conceded that the new Secretary-General would be either from Latin America or Africa. There, however, were many factors to be considered.

He said his Government would co-operate with any sanctions imposed against Rhodesia by the Security Council.

The Foreign Minister agreed with a suggestion that while imposing sanctions against any country, some means of sharing the burden of such sanctions should be found.

Mr. Lyng disagreed with a correspondent's remark that the prestige of the United Nations was not high. He said that the United Nations prestige was very high in every part of Europe. "We see the United Nations as a corner stone of every foreign policy," he said.

He agreed that the Viet-Nam had caused some poisoning of relations between East and West, especially in Europe.

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19 December 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY GEORGE IGNATIEFF (CANADA)

Mr. Ignatieff was introduced to the Press by Sidney Freifeld, Press Officer of the Canadian Delegation, who said that he would explain Canada's attitude on "shelving" the Canadian resolution on peace-keeping in the General Assembly today.

Mr. Ignatieff said that it was being done in order to avoid a showdown vote on the resolution adopted by the Special Political Committee on 15 December. The action he said was the result of a state of mind which had been created by an implication that Canada's resolution was unacceptable to France and the Soviet Union.

He said Members could not make deals not to vote in the Assembly on something which had been adopted in Committees. Those who advocated such action he said had wanted another chance to approach France and the Soviet Union. He said the Canadian resolution was a good one, "valid and well conceived" and did not violate the Charter.

He looked forward to a lively discussion in the Committee of 33, he said and in the next session of the General Assembly, though he noted that the Committee of 33 was small and no one talked very much.

Asked if he thought that the postponement meant that it was likely that the Soviet Union and France would make a large contribution of peace-keeping operations, he replied that that was a strong hope and was on the minds of those who voted for postponement.

Asked if he thought the vote today was a reflection of the Security Council vote on the Rhodesian item, he said that some of the African states, notably Liberia, had supported Canada in the vote today.

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U.K. DELEGATION PRESS BRIEFINGS

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

20 December 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY WILLIAM SQUIRE, (UNITED KINGDOM)

Mr. Squire promised to make available statements made in the British Parliament on Rhodesia. Asked for the United Kingdom's comment on Mr. Goldberg's letter to U Thant, Mr. Squire said that the United Kingdom welcomed any move that would lead to a settlement of hostilities. Questioned about the mission to Aden and when it would leave for the area, Mr. Squire said that the feast of Ramadan does not end until mid-January and the mission would not leave until then.

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U.S. DELEGATION PRESS BRIEFINGS

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

PRESS BRIEFING BY FRANCIS W. CARPENTER (UNITED STATES)

7 September 1966

Francis W. Carpenter said Ambassador Goldberg was in Washington for a Cabinet meeting and would be back this afternoon.

Asked about "snags" that seemed to be developing with regard to a possible Security Council meeting about the post of Secretary-General, Mr. Carpenter said that Mr. Goldberg had not taken the initiative for such a meeting but rather had expressed the hope that U Thant would remain. In response to a correspondent, who said that the Security Council seemed to be in "outer space" on this issue, Mr. Carpenter replied that it was not clear who was going to bring the Council "down from orbit". Nobody was asking for a Council meeting, he added.

Answering a further question, he said the probability of a meeting has "faded even further".

In reply to a question about the plans of the Secretary of State, he said Dean Rusk customarily came to New York about the time the General Assembly opened its session. This custom would prevail, he added, though he had no definite dates yet.

Asked whether Ne Win's visit would have any relation to moves on the Viet-Nam question, Mr. Carpenter said he had nothing on that.

Queried as to whether the United States had any preference for a successor in the post of Secretary-General, he said the United States was not considering anyone but U Thant. It was "zeroing in on U Thant", he added. There was no deadline as to when the United States might consider anyone else, and this would not be known "until we get a more definite indication from U Thant".

In response to a question about Mr. Goldberg's meeting with Nikolai T. Fedorenko over the weekend, Mr. Carpenter said the matter of the Secretary-General had been discussed, but no more was to be said about that meeting now.

Asked whether Mr. Goldberg had said it would take a "massive effort" to get U Thant to reconsider, Mr. Carpenter replied that the Ambassador had not said anything about that.

Asked what had changed since last week in the thinking about a Council meeting, Mr. Carpenter said, "I imagine people's minds might have changed".

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There was different thinking now about the steps that might be taken, he added.

Replying to a further question, he saw no indication either of a change of the Secretary-General's views or of a change of policy by anyone to induce him to stay on.

Asked whether the talks between Mr. Goldberg and other delegates had dealt with an extension or a new term, or with the issues mentioned in the Secretary-General's statement last week, Mr. Carpenter said he knew of no discussion of the issues. The question, he added, was what was to be done -- whether a Council meet should be held or what other steps should be taken.

As to whether Mr. Goldberg was consulting with delegations other than those of Council members, Mr. Carpenter said the Ambassador had no "planned campaign" but would talk with those who wanted to see him.

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2 December 1966

PRESS CONFERENCE BY ARTHUR GOLDBERG, UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Before reading a prepared statement today, Ambassador Goldberg commented that this would be a brief statement regarding the Security Council action on the Secretary-General. After General Assembly action today, he said, he would have a longer statement to make.

Mr. Goldberg stated: "The United States is highly pleased at the announced action of the Security Council in recommending another full term for U Thant as Secretary-General.

"We were very glad to join in this recommendation. We look forward to its unanimous approval this afternoon."

In response to a question whether the Viet-Nam situation played a part in the Security Council consideration of this question, the Ambassador replied that the Viet-Nam issue did not figure in the negotiations. What was involved, he said, was the very full role of the Secretary-General in fulfilling the activities of his great office.

Asked whether the Security Council could not have made a fuller statement about the Secretary-General's future role, Ambassador Goldberg said, "we think this is a full statement". He added that it reinforced his role as Secretary-General of the United Nations. In response to a further question, he said the action confirmed and reinforced the Charter provisions regarding the role of the Secretary-General.

In response to another question whether United Nations finances were involved in the Security Council negotiations, the Ambassador replied that this question never entered into the discussions.

To a further question whether he knew of any contemplated action in this area, he said he did not know of anything. The United States had been waiting for a very long time for action by defaulters, he said. Promises had been made, he added, but nothing had ever happened.

Asked what was the United States role in the discussions leading to Security Council action, the Ambassador said from the start, following the Secretary-General's

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announcement of his decision not to serve a further term, the United States had been earnestly pursuing the aim of persuading U Thant to remain in office. It was not a new initiative, he added, but had been consistently pursued by the United States Government.

In response to a question whether he expected an early solution of the United Nations financial deficit problem, Ambassador Goldberg said it was something that required attention, and the United States had felt this for a long time. The United States, he continued, had contributed more than 50 per cent to the United Nations family, beyond its normal allotment. He had said before, he added, and he would repeat categorically that the United States would not be found wanting. The United States had waited patiently and still waited for action.

Asked about the Secretary-General's hopes for peace emerging from the Viet-Nam truce, Mr. Goldberg said this was something that the Secretary-General himself should comment on.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

5 December 1966

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY FRANCIS W. CARPENTER (UNITED STATES)

At his daily press briefing, Francis W. Carpenter of the United States Mission replied "no" when asked whether the United States Mission was aware of any changes the Secretary-General proposed to make in top United Nations personnel at the Under-Secretary level.

Asked for comment on the Newsweek article regarding Viet-Nam, Mr. Carpenter read a statement which, he said, was being issued by the State Department spokesman in Washington.

It read: "There have been many previous reports about the events referred to in Newsweek. As we have done when these reports have appeared in the past, we have carefully reviewed our record. There is nothing useful that I can add to the comments we have already made.

"The basic fact is the United States is determined to achieve a just, peaceful solution to the Viet-Nam problem."

Mr. Carpenter said he had nothing on published reports that the United States had twice tried to make approaches to Hanoi, but U Thant had not been able to establish contact.

Questioned about the visit of Mr. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Carpenter said he was glad to hear that the Secretary-General had had a chance to see him. Regarding whether the Soviet Deputy Minister had talked to Ambassador Goldberg, Mr. Carpenter said Mr. Kuznetsov outranked Mr. Goldberg and therefore perhaps the Soviet Mission should be asked this question. He added that Ambassador Goldberg sometimes did things without letting his staff know.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

19 December 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY FRANCIS CARPENTER (UNITED STATES)

Mr. Carpenter announced that the United States Mission would depart from its usual end-of-Assembly procedure and issue a statement of General Assembly accomplishments in lieu of holding a press conference by Mr. Goldberg. To assuage any feelings injured by the change, he invited journalists to come to the Mission at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening.

He asked journalists to watch for what he characterized as a "slam-bang" on peace keeping this afternoon and then read the text of a letter which he said Mr. Goldberg had delivered to the Secretary-General at 10:30 a.m. today.

The letter to the Secretary-General from Mr. Goldberg reads:

"Two world leaders who command the respect of the entire international community have recently voiced the desire for a cease-fire in Vietnam. On December 8, Pope Paul VI noted the temporary Christmas truce arranged in Vietnam and beseeched all concerned to transform this temporary truce into a cessation of hostilities which would become the occasion for sincere negotiations. And you, Mr. Secretary General, expressed the sincere hope on the same day that the parties directly concerned would heed the Pope's appeal.

"In the fourteen points my Government has put forward as elements of a peaceful settlement in Vietnam, you will recall, the United States has explicitly stated: A cessation of hostilities could be the first order of business at a conference or could be the subject of preliminary discussions. I herewith reaffirm our commitment to that proposal -- a proposal which is in keeping with the appeal of the Pope as endorsed by you. Our objective remains the end of all fighting, of all hostilities and of all violence in Vietnam -- and an honorable and lasting settlement there, for which, as we have repeatedly said, the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962 would be a satisfactory basis.

"President Johnson has time and again stressed his desire for a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam conflict. Other United States leaders have spoken in a similar vein. In speaking before the General Assembly on behalf of my Government on September 22, I noted there are differences between our aims as to the basis for such a settlement and the stated position of North Vietnam. I went on to say that: "... no differences can be resolved without contact, discussion or negotiations". This holds equally true with regard to arrangements for a mutual cessation of hostilities.

(more)

19 December 1966

"We turn to you, therefore, with the hope and the request that you will take whatever steps you consider necessary to bring about the necessary discussions which could lead to such a cease-fire. I can assure you that the Government of the United States will cooperate fully with you in getting such discussions started promptly and in bringing them to a successful completion.

"I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council."

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

20 December 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY FRANCIS CARPENTER (UNITED STATES)

Mr. Carpenter said that the United States regretted the delay in a peace-keeping settlement and said that there would be "another go at it" in the special session in April.

He announced that Mr. Goldberg's assessment of the Assembly statement would be released tomorrow and that Mr. Goldberg planned some rest and recuperation after the Assembly.

Questioned about Mr. Goldberg's travel plans, Mr. Carpenter said Mr. Goldberg had no specific plans.

He said he had no comment on what was sent on the wires about Mr. Goldberg's letter to U Thant. He was asked whether Mr. Goldberg expected an answer to his letter yesterday to the Secretary-General. Mr. Carpenter said it was not time yet to expect one.

Asked whether Mr. Goldberg had changed his travel plans and whether his trip had been cancelled, Mr. Carpenter repeated that no time had ever been specified for the trip.

To a further question about what Mr. Goldberg expected from his letter to U Thant, Mr. Carpenter said "don't hang the crepe yet". Asked whether the letter would have a follow-up from the White House, Mr. Carpenter said he had no text.

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21 December 1966

PRESS BRIEFING BY FRANCIS W. CARPENTER (UNITED STATES)

Mr. Carpenter, at his 12:30 briefing for the United States Mission, circulated the following statement, which he said was also being released in Washington at the State Department briefing:

"As is evidenced by my letter to the Secretary General of December 19th, the United States is prepared to take all appropriate steps to achieve a peaceful solution of the Vietnam problem.

"We welcome the appeal of the President of the General Assembly and affirm strongly the unconditional willingness of the United States to seek a peaceful solution and to engage in discussions to this end."

He said he had nothing to add to the statement. Asked if the first paragraph included an unconditional halt to the bombing, he pointed out that the text spoke of "all appropriate steps".

A six- or seven-page assessment of the Assembly session would be available later this afternoon, he stated.

Arthur J. Goldberg, United States representative, would probably leave tomorrow for a vacation, he added.

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