

ss Briefings and Press Conferences of the Sec.-Gen.: 4 March  
I Daily Press Briefings

23/06/1969 - 30/09/1969

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23 June 1969

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General's appointments were: Philippines and Iraq.

He drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement on Saturday regarding the illegal Southern Rhodesia referendum (SG/SM/1121).

He said that at 3 p.m. the Secretary-General would open the meeting of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, regarding the Committee of Three, and would make a statement which would be made available immediately after delivery.

To questions on this matter, he said the meeting would be closed and was regarded as an unofficial meeting. It would take place in Conference Room 5. The agenda, he believed, was the letter sent out on Friday to the Vice-Presidents calling for the meeting. That letter was not going to be reproduced as a press release, but he had a copy of it which correspondents could look at.

Asked who would preside over the meeting, he said the Secretary-General would preside at the opening meeting but he did not know what would happen afterwards. Asked if the "results of an unofficial meeting would be official", he said the procedure, as everybody knew, was unusual. The results would be official. Asked if decisions of the Vice Presidents would be by a vote or consensus, he said he would check.

To a question on whether there were now additional replies to the original letter of the Secretary-General on the question of the appointments of the Committee of Three, he said there were but he did not have them at the moment.

Asked if the report on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, prepared by the Secretary-General's experts under a resolution of the last Assembly, and called for submission to the Secretary-General by 1 July, would be made public this week, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Asked if the Secretary-General had sent a copy of his Saturday statement to Southern Rhodesia, and, if so, how, he said a copy had not been sent.

Regarding weekend fighting in the Middle East area, including reported raids from each side of the Canal to the other, and also in the Jordan area, Mr. Nassif was asked if there were any reports in, and whether the Secretary-General had any comment. He said there were no reports in from the Suez sector and the United

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Nations did not have reporting facilities in the Jordan sector. Asked if the Secretary-General believed the stories in the papers, since both sides had acknowledged the raids, he said he believed the Secretary-General would rely on United Nations reporting, not on newspaper reports. Asked if the Secretary-General would comment on the newspaper stories, he said he did not believe he would, but he would check.

A correspondent said that the Secretary-General in the past had said the situation might get out of hand, and that a virtual state of war existed in the Suez sector. Could the Secretary-General now make an evaluation of the current situation? Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Asked if "the international civil servants of the Moscow Information Centre have now replied" (Mr. Berlin, New York Post), Mr. Nassif said a reply had been received on Friday evening from the Moscow Centre, stating that no approach had been made to the Centre regarding the petition "and I trust that this now closes the episode; nothing further is expected". Asked if "you or the Secretary-General" was expressing this "trust", he said the Secretary-General. He added: "Our only concern was the allegations made against the Centre. We have looked into them and have received a reply."

Asked if he was saying that newspaper reports on the matter were untrue (Mr. Leichter, German Press Agency), he said he was not saying that. Then, the correspondent said, he was saying the newspaper reports were true. Mr. Nassif said "the burden of proof is on the newspaper publishing the stories. It is not up to us to attempt to prove some charges levelled at us".

To a question on whether the United Nations had received a petition from some churchmen in Gorki (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe), Mr. Nassif said he would check.. Asked if the Secretariat was "satisfied with the reply received from the Moscow Centre", he said "Yes, the Secretariat is".

A correspondent said the reply was only from one United Nations office, but there were two. Mr. Nassif said there was really only one. The acting Director of the Centre also acted as UNDP Resident Representative.

Asked who had signed the reply, he said the acting Director of the Centre. Asked to give the exact language of the reply, he said he believed it was on the lines of "No approach was made to the Centre on this matter".

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A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Transradio), asked if the Secretary-General had any views on what kind of flag should be put on the moon. If the Secretary-General was not ready to answer at this moment, he said he asked for U Thant's answer to the following questions: a) In international law is the planting of a United States flag on the moon regarded as a gesture of claim or ownership; b) what was the position of General Assembly resolutions stating that nobody could claim the moon or outer space, which belonged to everybody? Mr. Nassif said he would pass on the questions, but he doubted that any comment would be made.

Asked if the Secretary-General had discussed Nigeria, or the present fate of Achkar Marof, with Diallo Telli, he said he knew that Nigeria had been discussed. He would check on the other matter.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had now read the Foreign Affairs article by Clark Clifford, former United States Secretary of Defence, on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif apologized for not checking this. He would do so. He was asked to announce the result of his query this afternoon.

In reply to questions, Keith Beavan said that, so far, listed in the Security Council's debate on Southern Rhodesia, were Finland, Hungary and Burundi. He said it was not possible at this moment to make any predictions on what, if anything, was expected further for this afternoon.

He drew attention to the announcement in the Journal today, of the scheduled meeting of the Committee of 33 on peacekeeping, for 3 p.m., Wednesday, 25 June. It was not possible yet to say what would happen there. The Committee's Working Group would meet tomorrow to consider what might be said by the Chairman in an oral report.

Asked if reports of the Working Group on Observers and Peacekeeping Forces would be made available on Wednesday, he said he did not expect so. He thought that an oral report on work so far, by the Chairman, was possible. As for a substantive report, the Secretary-General had said he expected that by the next Assembly. Asked if he envisaged a series of meetings of the Committee, he said what would happen would not be clear until after the Working Group met tomorrow, but he believed that what was envisaged was an oral report by the Chairman on the situation so far, and not a series of meetings.

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24 June 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General was sending a note verbale to Member Governments regarding the meeting yesterday of the Vice-Presidents of the 23rd session of the General Assembly. The text of the note would be issued as a press release this afternoon. At the meeting, he said, it had been agreed that Luis Alvarado, Chairman of the delegation of Peru to the 23rd session of the Assembly, should be entrusted with the task of appointing the members of the three-member committee established by the Assembly last year "to investigate the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories".

Two more replies had been received to the Secretary-General's original note on this subject, he said, making a total of 100. Colombia had expressed itself in favour of alternative 2(a), whereby the appointment would be made by one of the Vice-Presidents of the 23rd session of the Assembly, and Guyana had said it favoured a special session of the Assembly.

The Secretary-General had appointments today, he said, with Abdellatif Rahal, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry of Algeria; with Bernardus Twigt, Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization; with Yakov A. Malik, representative of the Soviet Union; and with Mamadou Mockett Thiam, representative of the Organization of African Unity.

The Secretary-General would also attend a reception today, being given by UNITAR in honour of the Adlai Stevenson Fellows. The Secretary-General would present their certificates to them.

Ramses Nassif drew attention to a message from the Secretary-General, being read on his behalf today by William Epstein, Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division, in Mexico City, at the preliminary meeting for the establishment of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (see Press Release SG/SM/1123-DC/587).

In reply to a question, Mr. Powell said that the report of the consultant group on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons had been completed but was still being translated. It would probably not be available until next week, he said.

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Mr. Nassif said, in reply to a question asked previously about an article by Clark Clifford in the magazine Foreign Affairs, that the Secretary-General had read the article -- relating to Viet-Nam -- with interest last night, "and stands by everything he (the Secretary-General) has said on the matter".

On the Middle East, Mr. Powell said that a report from UNTSO on the firing yesterday in the Suez Canal sector would be issued this afternoon.

In reply to a question, he said that "the Secretary-General is concerned about the reported escalation of the fighting in several areas of the Middle East".

When had the Secretary-General last been advised about the meetings of the Big Four on the Middle East? Mr. Nassif said that he had last been advised by Armand Berard (France) on Tuesday of last week, 17 June. There had been nothing since then, to his knowledge. Was Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, still at his post in Moscow? Yes, said Mr. Powell, and was in regular contact with the Secretary-General.

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25 June 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said, in anticipation of questions, that there were wire agency reports of a request by Jordan for a meeting of the Security Council but that, as of now, nothing had been received here.

The Secretary-General had appointments today, he said, with the representatives of Upper Volta, the United Kingdom, Ghana and the Netherlands.

Asked if the appointment yesterday of Yakov Malik (Soviet Union) had dealt with the Middle East, Mr. Powell said he thought it was safe to assume so, inasmuch as the Soviet Union had been host to a Big Four meeting on the Middle East yesterday. However, he could not say anything official. Asked if it was true that Mr. Malik was about to make a trip to Moscow, he said he had no information.

A report on the firing yesterday in the Suez Canal sector would be available later today, he said.

Regarding this afternoon's meeting of the Committee of 33 -- the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations -- Mr. Powell said, in reply to a question, that the Committee's Working Group had met this morning to discuss the oral report to be made to the Committee this afternoon by its Chairman, Francisco Cuevas Cancino (Mexico). No written report was expected.

Asked about the current situation of Hans Rieff, a member of the staff of the United Nations Fund for West Irian, who had been charged with political activities by the Indonesian authorities, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Rieff, a national of the Netherlands, was one of two experts appointed by UNESCO to do educational work in West Irian. The Indonesian authorities had said recently that he was no longer acceptable, and he had left the area. The Indonesian authorities had not stated their reasons, and no further information was available here. The correspondent who had asked the question (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said he understood that Mr. Rieff had been linked to the recent unrest in West Irian. Mr. Powell said he had no information. He believed Mr. Rieff was back in Paris now. Asked by Mr. Mezerik if representations had been made to the Indonesian authorities, Mr. Powell said perhaps from UNESCO but not the United Nations.

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In reply to a question, he said that the report of the consultant group on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons would probably not be available until early next week.

Asked when the Secretary-General would leave for Geneva, to attend the summer session of the Economic and Social Council, Ramses Nassif said he did not have the exact date but thought it would probably be around 7 or 8 July. Would the Secretary-General make a statement about the poisoning of the fish in the Rhine River? Mr. Nassif said he did not think so but he would check.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said that the representative of the Netherlands had signed the two human rights covenants today.

He drew attention to two new press releases: one, embargoed for 1 July, on a symposium for specialists in pesticide production from the developing countries (press release IDO/206); and one from the Centre for Economic and Social Information on the recent meetings of the Committee for Development Planning relating to the Second Development Decade (Development Note No. 8).

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Office of Public Information  
Briefing Section, External Relations Division  
SPECIAL REPORT ON THE FRENCH LANGUAGE PRESS

24 June 1969  
2nd report

POLLUTION

AFP-142

24 JUNE

LABORATORIES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS ARE WORKING TO ASCERTAIN THE NATURE AND ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIOUS POISON THAT HAS POLLUTED THE WATERS OF THE RHINE, THE LARGEST WATERWAY IN EUROPE. HUGE NUMBERS OF POISONED FISH FLOAT ON THE RIVER OR ACCUMULATE ON THE BANKS AND THE AUTHORITIES FEAR THAT ALL THE AQUATIC FAUNA MAY PERISH. ALSO THEY FEAR THAT THE WATER MAY CONTAMINATE THE TOWNS AND TRIBUTARIES OF THE BIG RIVER. MOST OF THE FILTERING STATIONS HAVE CLOSED THEIR INTAKE VALVES AND HAVE SWITCHED OVER TO THEIR RESERVES. THE LOCKS OF THE RHINE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES HAVE ALSO BEEN CLOSED TO PREVENT THE LARGE CITIES OF ROTTERDAM, UTRECHT AND AMSTERDAM FROM BEING CONTAMINATED.

THE PROBLEM OF THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY IS INDEED THE MOST PRESSING ONE. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER OF WATERWAYS AND COMMUNICATIONS HAS ANNOUNCED, AT THE HAGUE, THAT RESERVES ARE SUFFICIENT FOR A WEEK. GERMAN AND DUTCH EXPERTS EXPECT TO SUCCEED, BEFORE THEN, IN DETERMINING THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLLUTANT. THEY ESTIMATE THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS, IN FLUID OR CONCENTRATE FORM, ARE AT THE ROOT OF THE DISASTER. THE THEORY OF A LEAK IN A CARGO BOAT CARRYING INDUSTRIAL WASTE HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. A LARGE CHEMICAL PLANT ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE. ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THE POISON IS EXTREMELY STRONG. A HEALTHY FISH SUBMERGED IN THE WATER DIED WITHIN SEVEN MINUTES.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

26 June 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Secretary-General had one appointment today with Ambassador Villamil of Honduras. He would also attend the luncheon given by the President of the Security Council.

Asked about newspaper reports concerning raids across the Suez Canal, he said that the Secretary-General could report to the Security Council only on the basis of what the Observers in the area had seen and heard. Asked whether the Secretary-General had any comment on the recent escalation of fighting in the Suez Sector, he repeated the expression of concern which he had given a few days ago.

Mr. Powell said that a report on firing across the Canal yesterday would be issued this afternoon. Asked why the report concerning the firing on 24 June was available only this morning, he said that the reports were issued to the press just as soon as they were available for general distribution.

A correspondent said that Israel in a letter to the Security Council (S/9283) had reported that when it had attempted to turn over the bodies of five United Arab Republic soldiers to the representatives of UNTSO and of the International Red Cross the party had been fired upon and that the United Arab Republic had subsequently refused to accept the bodies. Would the United Nations issue a report on this incident? Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General was in possession of the facts but that no report would be issued. Asked why, he explained that over the years UNTSO had regularly been involved in acts of a humanitarian nature involving the exchange of prisoners and the return of bodies. The Secretary-General had not reported on these activities and did not propose to do so now. Asked whether UNTSO reported when its observers were fired upon, he confirmed that this was the case.

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Asked if the reported death of five United Arab Republic soldiers was a record number of casualties since the June 1967 war, he said he did not know.

Mr. Powell called attention to Document A/7495/Add.2 containing a tabulation of the replies to the Secretary-General's note to member Governments concerning the most appropriate way of resolving the question of the appointment of the members of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Population of Occupied Territories. Asked whether the texts of the replies would also be published, Mr. Powell said no. Only one member (Israel) had asked for the circulation of its reply as an Assembly document.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a message from the Secretary-General to a Symposium opening today in Bucharest (Press Release SG/SM/1124) which is being read on his behalf by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Asked whether there was any official reaction to the fact that June 26th was the 24th anniversary of the signing of the Charter, Mr. Powell apologized and said that he had intended to open the briefing by saying "Happy Charter Day".

To a question as to whether the Secretary-General had declined an invitation to attend a ceremony at the home of the Late President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C. next Saturday -- a ceremony commemorating the establishment of the League of Nations -- Mr. Nassif said that this was so. He explained that as a matter of protocol the Secretary-General did not visit the capital city of a member State without an official invitation from the Government. In answer to further questions, he said that this was a firmly established practice and that when the Secretary-General paused briefly or overnight in the capital of a member State while traveling, the Government concerned was notified in advance.

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27 June 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General had appointments today with the representatives of the United Arab Republic, Mauritius, the United States, Rwanda and Somalia, the latter in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Secretary-General also had appointments, he said, with Diallo Alpha, Chef de Cabinet of the Foreign Minister of Guinea, and with the Observer of South Viet-Nam to the United Nations.

Asked if there was anything new in the Viet-Nam situation, in view of this appointment, Ramses Nassif said he did not think so. Asked if there might be any information today about the situation of Achkar Marof, former representative of Guinea to the United Nations, in view of the other appointment, Mr. Nassif said that unfortunately there would not be. Asked if the appointment with Mr. Diallo had been made at the Secretary-General's request, Mr. Powell said he wouldn't know.

Asked if the letter to the Secretary-General from the Chemical Bank would be made public, Mr. Nassif said that was up to the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid to decide. The Secretary-General had transmitted the letter to the Committee.

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General was aware of reports quoting Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel, as having said that there were discrepancies between the Secretary-General's reaction to the cease-fire violations in the Suez Canal area and the reports from Lieutenant General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, putting responsibility on the United Arab Republic for the deterioration in the situation, and if he was aware of these reports, did he have any comment? Mr. Powell said he would check.

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Mr. Powell said that a press release would be issued on the opening of the human rights seminar yesterday in Nicosia, Cyprus.

With regard to the report of the consultant group on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, he said that it was not yet ready. He believed it might be available next Tuesday, 1 July, for release on Thursday, 3 July. William Epstein, Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division, would be available on the day it was distributed to answer questions about the report.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

30 June 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the report of the consultant group of experts on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons would be available at 10 a.m. tomorrow, 1 July, embargoed for 5 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, 2 July. William Epstein, Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division, who served as Chairman of the group, would be in Room 226 at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow to answer questions on the report.

Asked if there was a summary of the report, Mr. Powell said there were conclusions.

Regarding this afternoon's Security Council meeting, on the Jordanian letter on Jerusalem, Mr. Powell said that the only speakers listed so far were Jordan and Israel.

He said that UNTSO reports on the firing in the Suez Canal sector on Saturday and Sunday, 28 and 29 June, would be available later today. Asked if Lieutenant General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, was back in Jerusalem now, Mr. Powell said he believed General Bull would be back there this week from the holiday in Norway he took after his recent trip to New York for consultations.

Asked if there was a progress report on the efforts of the representative of Peru, Luis Alvarado, as a Vice-President of the 23rd session of the General Assembly, who had been selected to appoint the three-member committee established by the Assembly last year "to investigate the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories", Mr. Powell said he had checked this morning and there was no progress report. Did Mr. Alvarado envisage a date by which he expected to have the members appointed? Mr. Powell said he would check.

A correspondent asked if the Big Four talks on the Middle East had been suspended and if the only talks now were between Joseph Sisco, of the United States, and Anatoly Dobrynin, of the Soviet Union, in Washington. Mr. Powell said he did not know. The correspondent should check with the delegations concerned. The correspondent then remarked that the Secretary-General was being advised by

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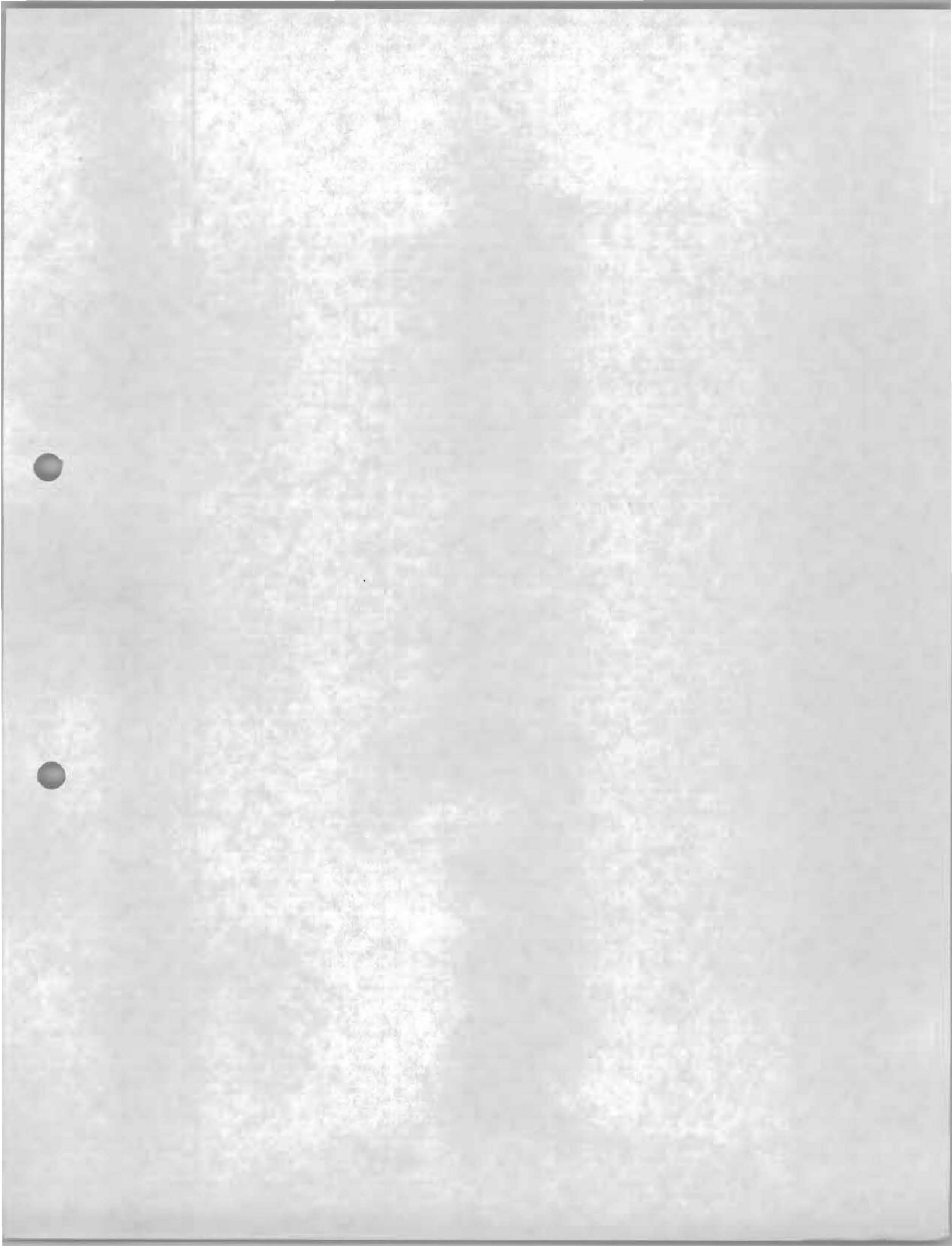
the Big Four about the talks. Yes, said Ramses Nassif, but the Secretary-General had not made anything public. Had the talks been suspended? Mr. Nassif said he couldn't say. Would the Secretary-General see the Big Four ambassadors this week? Mr. Nassif said he would try to find out.

In reply to a question asked previously, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General had not been aware of reports attributing certain remarks to Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel, about an alleged discrepancy between the Secretary-General's position on violations of the cease-fire in the Suez Canal sector and the UNTSO reports. However, the Secretary-General had asked for the full text of Mr. Eban's remarks from the delegation of Israel. He did not know whether or not the Secretary-General would have a statement to make after studying the text of the remarks.

The Secretary-General had appointments today, he said, with the new permanent representative of Venezuela, Andrés Aguilar Mawdsley, who was presenting his credentials; and with the representative of Mali.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a press release, embargoed for Sunday, 6 July, on the world economic survey (EC/2454), and to another on preparations for the International Education Year in 1970 (UNESCO/1909-ECOSOC/2710).

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS

July to September 1969

1 July 1969

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on chemical and bacteriological weapons and the press release on the subject (SG/SM/1126-DC/588). He reminded correspondents of the press briefing, by William Epstein, on the subject at 2:30 p.m. and said it was under the same embargo as the report, 5 p.m. EDT, tomorrow.

The Secretary-General's appointments: Bulgaria; Bibiano F. Osario-Tafall, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus. On the latter appointment, Mr. Powell said this was nothing unusual. Following adoption of the last Security Council resolution on Cyprus, Mr. Osario-Tafall had gone on leave to Mexico and was now on his way back to Cyprus and was having a final consultation with the Secretary-General before returning to the Island.

Listed to speak, so far, in the Security Council: United Kingdom and France.

A correspondent (Mr. Leichter, German Press Agency) asked that Mr. Nosek or the Controller give an estimate in overtime costs, paper etc. involved in the statement of Mr. Baroody (Saudi Arabia) before the Security Council yesterday. Mr. Powell said that Mr. Nosek had a formula on the cost of reproducing speeches and he would check what that was.

Later, another correspondent (Mr. Jabri, Lebanon and Jordan papers and radio) said that this was an unprofessional question. The question should not be about the cost of a speech when an Arab Ambassador spoke, but about costs in general. Mr. Powell said that on several occasions Mr. Nosek had told correspondents the formula of how many dollars a page reproduction of speeches cost. He would get the formula and correspondents could apply it to the number of pages in the verbatim record for any speech.

The first correspondent asked Mr. Powell also to check the cost of meetings that ran beyond 6 p.m. He said he would.

Much of the briefing was devoted to the communique on the Middle East Four Power talks made available on the Third Floor this morning. The questions and comments were a metaphorical mixed bag of Biblical history, prophetic wisdom, feminine fashions, comparative intelligence quotients and Latin phraseology.

(The statement, headed "Middle East Four Power Talks - Press Communique" reads:

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"Because of important consultations on the Middle East taking place among the four Governments, the date of the next meeting of Permanent Representatives will be set at a later time.

"In the meantime the Working Group will continue to meet.

"Appropriate contacts will be maintained with the parties primarily concerned.)

Asked who had authorized issuance of the communique, Mr. Powell said it had been delivered by a member of the United Kingdom Mission, who had then left. (Subsequently, asked how a press release could be put in the racks without a delegation head -- standard OPI policy -- Mr. Powell said he had taken the decision which was "sui generis, without precedent, but not precedent making".)

A correspondent (Mr. Estabrook, Washington Post) said "the genesis was thus an exodus". Mr. Powell replied that in these briefings he needed the patience of Job.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the communique, Ramses Nassif said a copy had been sent to him, but there had not yet been an opportunity to speak to the Secretary-General about it.

A correspondent recalled that the Secretary-General had said, about two months ago, that there was urgent need for the Big Four to reach agreement in the next month or two. What was his position now? Mr. Nassif said he would check. Asked when the Secretary-General had made the statement just attributed to him, he said in April, while in Europe.

Asked if it could be assumed that the Secretary-General still felt the situation was very dangerous in the Middle East, Mr. Powell said it was quite safe to assume that the Secretary-General stood by his appraisal of the situation.

Another correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Transradio) said the communique said "the Big Four were not meeting because they are meeting". He knew that he himself had a very low intelligence quotient, but everybody knew that the Big Four meetings had collapsed "and they have to cover it up with this puny mini-skirt of a release". Mr. Nassif said it was any correspondent's privilege to interpret anything as he wished.

On other matters, in reply to a question, Mr. Powell said he had checked with the Peruvian Mission on whether there was anything to be said on the appointment of the committee of three, and had been told ~~there~~ was not. He suggested that correspondents keep in touch with the Mission.

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Asked if OPI would issue a pamphlet on the chemical weapons report, as it had on the nuclear weapons report, he said the earlier pamphlet had been issued at the request of the General Assembly. Should the Assembly ask for similar treatment for the present report, OPI would of course comply.

A correspondent said that recently the New York Times had had a story saying that in March or April the United Arab Republic had complied to a request from the Secretary-General not to cross the Canal on raids. Was this correct? Mr. Powell said he had no guidance.

Regarding the reported decision of Nigeria not to allow relief to go directly to "Biafra", a correspondent asked what was the position on UNICEF supplies. Mr. Powell said UNICEF was in touch with its people in the area, but he had nothing he could say at this moment. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was in touch with his representative in Nigeria. Asked if the United Nations had anybody in "Biafra", he said it did not. When asked if there was any comment from the Secretary-General on the situation, he said "not for the moment".

Asked if General Bull was now back in Jerusalem, Mr. Powell said he had not checked today. General Bull was due back sometime this week.

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2 July 1969

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the speakers in the Security Council this afternoon were: Jordan, Morocco, Zambia, Nepal, Hungary, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. (After the briefing, Malaysia, Indonesia and Finland were added.)

The Secretary-General's appointments: Yugoslavia; Mr. McNamara of the International Bank.

Asked the purpose of the second appointment, he said he did not know, but he came to see the Secretary-General periodically. Ramses Nassif added that he came about twice a year.

Mr. Powell said there would be an UNTSO report on the firing in the Canal sector yesterday.

Asked if there would be statement by the Secretary-General on Nigeria and "Biafra", Rameses Nassif said "not today". Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General was in touch with his representative in Lagos and "is in no position to make a statement at this point".

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had a comment on yesterday's statement on the "Big Four" talks, Mr. Nassif said the question had been taken up with U Thant this morning and he did not wish to make any comment.

Regarding the Nigerian situation, a correspondent asked if it would be brought to the Secretary-General's attention that Chief Enaharo had made a statement to the effect that anything was fair policy in war, including starvation. Asked what amount of relief supplies were now stockpiled in Nigeria and where, and whether Nigeria had attempted to utilize the supplies, Mr. Powell said that all he knew was that UNICEF was in touch with its people in Nigeria, but he had no guidance yet. He gave the same answer when asked if either side had interfered with UNICEF supplies.

Asked if there could be a comment on the United States Secretary of State's press conference by tomorrow, Mr. Nassif said he doubted it. It was not the Secretary-General's habit to comment on such press conferences.

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3 July 1969

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI noon press briefing today, William Powell noted that additional requests to participate in the Security Council's debate today had been received from Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen and Tunisia. Those delegations scheduled to speak yesterday but held over until today's meeting are the following: Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Jordan, Pakistan and Morocco.

He also noted that no draft resolution on Jerusalem had as yet been submitted to the Security Council.

The Secretary-General has appointments today with the new Permanent Representative of Peru, H.E. Manuel Felix Maurtua who is to present his credentials, with Dr. B.R. Sen, former Director General of FAO, and Ambassador Zdenek Cernik, Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia.

There was a question posed at the press briefing 27 June concerning reports that Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel, had said there were discrepancies between the Secretary-General's reaction to the cease fire violations in the Suez Canal area and the reports submitted by Lieutenant General Odd Bull which allegedly placed responsibility for the deteriorating situation on the United Arab Republic. Mr. Powell responded that Ambassador Tekoah had orally informed the Secretary-General that this report was inaccurate, and that Mr. Eban had at no time implied that such discrepancies existed.

Mr. Tekoah will send a complete text of the statement made in the Israeli Parliament to the Secretary-General.

Regarding the Saturday schedule for OPI duty officers, Mr. Powell said the normal day would end at 3:00 p.m., and that between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. the duty officers would be on call in their homes.

Mr. Nassif announced the travel plans of the Secretary-General, and said Mr. Thant would arrive in Paris 7 July on his way to Geneva. He is scheduled to leave Paris Tuesday evening, 8 July, and during his stay in France he will have lunch with the French President, Georges Pompidou followed by a conversation and will also meet with the French Foreign Minister.

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Mr. Nassif in reply to a question posed by a correspondent said the Secretary-General to his knowledge would not have time to see the delegations to the Paris Peace Talks because of his crowded schedule, but would check further and that Mr. Thant would remain in Geneva 8-16 July.

A correspondent asked whether the Secretary-General had commented on the reports of the "treatment and release of American prisoners in Viet-Nam, and Mr. Nassif responded that he did not know but would check. He added that the Secretary-General had made no comment on the statement yesterday by United States Secretary of State Rogers.

There is no press briefing scheduled for tomorrow, 4 July, which is an official United Nations holiday.

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7 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said, in anticipation of questions, that the Secretary-General yesterday had developed "an acute rectal condition". He was now at home. He had cancelled his trip to Paris and would enter LeRoy Hospital this afternoon for treatment. A complete medical bulletin was expected between 4 and 5 p.m. today. There had been no decision yet, said Mr. Powell, regarding the Secretary-General's projected trip to Geneva. A decision would be taken within the next 24 hours.

Asked if it would be possible for the Secretary-General to be consulted about developments in the Middle East during his stay in the hospital, Mr. Powell said, "Yes, certainly".

Mr. Powell drew attention to the Secretary-General's special report, circulated this morning, on "the increasing ineffectiveness of the cease-fire in the Suez Canal sector" (S/9316). Two additional reports on the firing in the Suez Canal sector on Saturday and Sunday would be available later today.

In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that there were now approximately 92 United Nations Military Observers in the Suez Canal sector. The number varied between 90 and 95. The latest report on this subject listed the observers as coming from seven nations: Argentina, Austria, Chile, Finland, France, Ireland and Sweden. There were also Observers, he noted, in the Israel-Syria sector.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the forthcoming meeting of non-aligned States in Belgrade, Ramses Nassif read out the following statement:

"The Secretary-General is aware that representatives of some 50 non-aligned nations are due to meet on 8 July in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to discuss the future role of non-alignment on the world scene. He understands that one of the objectives of the meeting is the strengthening of the United Nations. He hopes that the meeting may contribute to greater international co-operation through the United Nations in the cause of peace and progress".

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the prospects of war between the Soviet Union and Communist China, Mr. Nassif said he did not.

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Asked if the boys had been found who had shot off fire crackers in front of the Secretary-General's house, Mr. Powell said he believed nobody had been apprehended. This incident, he said, had occurred early Saturday morning, 5 July.

Mr. Powell said that the text of a statement to be read by C.V. Narasimhan on behalf of the Secretary-General at the opening of the World Health Assembly, in Boston, would be issued today, embargoed for 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 8 July. Also to be issued was the text of an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary-General and Robert McNamara, President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, regarding a possible role for the Bank in the Mekong project.

Mr. Powell also drew attention to a release, embargoed for Sunday, 13 July, on the flow of financial resources to the developing countries (press release EC/2455).

A correspondent (Mr. Littlejohns, Reuters, President of the United Nations Correspondents Association) then said he wanted to ask some questions about the status of the daily OPI press briefings. Were they public or private? Were they restricted? How many people received copies of the summaries prepared after the briefings? Did the summaries identify the correspondents asking questions?

In reply, Mr. Powell said that the briefings were obviously on-the-record, and could be quoted from. Informal notes were prepared, which were headed, "For information of United Nations Secretariat only". Originally there had been only a few copies, mainly for the Secretary-General, but the notes had proved useful and now they were circulated to various department heads. In addition, the notes or excerpts from them were sent to the United Nations Information Centres. There was no delegation distribution, however. From time to time, correspondents were identified by name in the notes.

Asked if delegates were permitted to see the notes on request, Mr. Nassif said yes, and added that they had done so for years.

Asked who could listen to the briefings over the sound system, Mr. Nassif said that they went only to the Secretary-General's office and nowhere else.

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8 July, 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell drew attention to the bulletin on the Secretary-General's health (Note 3541) and said nothing further was expected to be said today. He also drew attention to the press release, issued in Djakarta, regarding Mr. Ortiz Sanz and the act of free choice in West Irian (Press Release SG/1736).

Asked how soon the Observers would report on the reported Israel-Syria dog-fight today. Mr. Powell said he could not predict. The report would come via General Bull's headquarters. Asked if the Observers in the area had OP's, as in the Canal sector, he said they did. Asked if they were stationed in the Golan Heights, he said they were. To a question on whether they were "on both sides of the border", he said they were on both sides of the cease-fire line. (While UN spokesmen speak about the "cease-fire sector" regarding Suez, the term "cease-fire line", as well as "sector", is used in reference to the Israel-Syria area, since both terms are used in the agreement between the parties.)

A correspondent said there was a report that the United Arab Republic had called up its reserves. Had the Secretary-General been informed of this officially. Mr. Powell said he had not.

Asked if there was any UN reaction to the Secretary-General's report to the Council yesterday on Observers (S/9316), he said none had been received in the house.

A correspondent said the Secretary-General had warned that, in extremity, he might withdraw the Observers. What was the next step, he asked. Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General had not said he would withdraw the Observers. He had said a possibility, if the situation continued, was that, after consultation with the countries providing Observers, he might recommend to the Council withdrawal of the Observers. The Observers had been placed on the basis of a July 1967 consensus of the Council. The Secretary-General could not withdraw them unilaterally.

Asked, if the firing continued, how long the Secretary-General would wait before making a recommendation to the Council, he said he had no guidance.

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9 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell drew attention to the statement on the Secretary-General's health (Note 3542) and said the estimate that he would be in the hospital for about 10 days remained the same.

He said that shortly there would be an UNTSO report (S/7930/Add.258) on the events in the Israel-Syria area and later today a further report on firings in the Suez sector (Add. 259). Regarding the latter report, he said there had been no firings on UNTSO OP's yesterday.

Asked if the Israel-Syria report would give the number of planes shot down, he said it was a one-page report and he would leave correspondents to read it. It said what the Observers saw and heard. Asked if it was "indecisive on vital statistics", he said "indecisive" was a good word. He pointed out that when General Bull had met with correspondents he had mentioned the difficulties on reporting on air activity. (General Bull had said that a complete radar net would be necessary for fully accurate reporting, and this was not possible.)

Asked if there had been any comment by the Soviet delegation on the petition from Soviet citizens on human rights, he said not to his knowledge. He was asked to check on whether any comment had been received, when was the cut off date for the screening, by the three men working group, of confidential communications on human rights, and when the working group would meet. He said he would.

Asked where General Bull was, he said he believed he was in Jerusalem.

Asked if U Thant had been advised that Joseph Cisco, Assistant Secretary of State, of the United States, for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, was to go to Moscow for Middle East talks, Ramses Nassif said he would check.

To a question on whether there was any response to the Secretary-General's special report on Suez, Mr. Powell said there was nothing in the house.

He was asked (Mr. Ritov, Israel Radio) whether he could confirm or deny reports that the special report had been ready three weeks earlier, but had been held up. (Today's New York Post carries a story, from its UN correspondent, quoting Israeli and United States sources, to the effect that the report was prepared three weeks ago but held up when it was realized that

(more)

it would not affect the "big Four" talks and when the Security Council decided to meet on Jerusalem. (Mr. Powell said he could not confirm such a report.) He knew the Secretary-General had been working on it as late as 4 July. Asked if there was any special reason why the report was not issued while the Council was in session, he said the Secretary-General had decided to make the report before he went on his then projected trip to Geneva. It had been scheduled to be in delegation boxes for 7 a.m. on Monday, and it went into the boxes at that time.

Asked if the "complaints" of contributor Governments on the Observers' safety had been received before 4 July, he said they had. However he would not use the word "complaint", since this had a special connotation in Council parlance. He would term them "informal expressions of concern."

A correspondent (Mr. Leichter, German Press Agency) said he had spoken to some of the countries contributing Observers and they had said they had not complained and were not themselves aware of the complaints of others. Mr. Powell said the expressions of concern had been made informally and verbally. Asked if they had been made to the Secretary-General, he said they had.

Asked if Secretary-General members were considering the question of withdrawal of the Observers, he said not that he was aware of. Asked if any of the contributor countries had threatened to pull out, he said it had not gone as far as that. They had expressed concern for the safety of their nationals.

Asked if a "Minute for Peace" group in the United States had contacted the Secretary-General, as they had President Nixon, to ask that the astronautas going to the moon carry some kind of international insignia, rather than a United States flag, Mr. Nassif said he would check. Asked if the Secretary-General had been invited, as Heads of State are reported to have been invited, to send a message to be placed in a plastic capsule to be placed on the moon, Mr. Powell said he had not.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

10 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said, to anticipate a question, that nobody had asked for a Security Council meeting. (There has been speculation, since yesterday, that Zambia would ask for a meeting, alleging raids on its territory by Portuguese planes, on 3 July and 25 June. Other speculation is that only a letter will come, with no request for a meeting.)

He drew attention to the backgrounder on the 47th session of the Economic and Social Council, which opens in Geneva on Monday. (ECOSOC/2711.) He said the Secretary-General's statement to the session would be read by Mr. de Seynes. It would be issued here at 10 a.m. Monday, for spot release.

There would be some delay, he said, in issuing the latest UNTSO report on firings in the Suez area yesterday, because of atmospheric interference in transmission. He had not seen it and therefore did not know if there had been any firing on the OP's yesterday.

Ramses Nassif read out the following, signed by William G. von Stein, M.D.: "Because of the Secretary-General's recent surgery, he cannot travel far for the next seven to eight weeks. It is very important for him to keep on a regular and light schedule and to have a special diet during this time". He added that the Secretary-General felt much better and had spent a comfortable night.

Asked if the purpose of the statement was to say that he would not be making his trip to Africa (never officially announced), Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had planned a trip to Africa, but it would now have to be postponed.

In reply to questions, he said Dr. von Stein was the Secretary-General's personal physician; that the African trip would be postponed to a mutually convenient date; that he could not say whether it would be rearranged for this year; that the intention had been to visit nine West African countries, beginning in late July; and that the African countries concerned had been advised of the postponement of the visit.

Further questions on this matter concerned the time the Secretary-General would come back to work and who was in charge at the United Nations. To these, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General was not staying away from the United Nations and the bulletin had said he must not "travel far". He expected the Secretary-

(more)

General to leave hospital late next week, and to be at home perhaps for a couple of weeks. The Secretary-General was very much in touch with Headquarters and read everything.

Asked if the bulletin today was unexpected, and whether this meant there were complications, Mr. Nassif said the statement had been anticipated before the operation, the medical recommendation was normal for this type of operation, and everything had proceeded as expected, without any complications.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had been informed in advance of the State Department announcement that Mr. Sisco would go to Moscow, for Middle East talks, Mr. Powell said not as far as he was aware.

Since the Secretary-General would be away, a correspondent asked who would handle next week's visit to Headquarters by the Foreign Minister of India. Mr. Nassif said he would check. Asked if Mr. Narasimhan was here, he said he was.

Asked if anything had been received in reaction to the Secretary-General's special report on Suez, or requesting withdrawal of Observers, Mr. Powell said there was nothing.

Replying to a question on what was happening regarding the Committee of 3 on human rights in the Israeli occupied territories, he said he understood the Peruvian Assembly Vice-President had been holding consultations. He said further questions should be addressed to the Peruvian Mission.

Asked if the Assembly would discuss the Secretary-General's report on biological and chemical weapons, he said the report would be an Assembly document and presumably would go before the First Committee.

A correspondent said there were answers outstanding to some questions asked yesterday. Mr. Powell said the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities of the Human Rights Commission would meet here from 25 August to 12 September. The Working Group to sort the petitions would begin meeting on 18 August. The members were: Mohamed A. Abu Rannat (Sudan); John P. Humphrey (Canada); Antonio Martínez Baez (Mexico). He said there was no cut-off date on what communications would be submitted by the Secretariat, and it was expected that they would be able to process at least those that were received into early August.

The correspondent said he had also asked whether the Soviet Union had commented on the petition from Soviet nationals. Mr. Powell said that under the rules of the Economic and Social Council he was in no position to state whether a Government commented or not on a particular communication. That was confidential information.

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The correspondent said that he therefore took it that there had been a reply. Mr. Powell said he had not said that. He was not allowed to say if a communication was, or was not, received.

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11 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General had spent a comfortable night, was recovering normally and was in regular touch with the office.

He said there was no request in by anybody for a Security Council meeting.

Mr. Powell announced with regret the death of Mr. Lindstrom, Director of the Information Service at the Geneva Office, of a heart attack early this morning. Asked if Mr. Lindstrom had been ill, he said he had not and there had been no previous history of a heart condition. In reply to questions, he gave biographical information.

A correspondent said that on 5 July (the special report on Suez), the Secretary-General had made an appeal to the parties, but fighting continued and the parties seemed to be ignoring the appeal. Was there any comment? Mr. Powell said there was no other comment than the 5 July report. Asked if the Secretary-General thought his appeal was being ignored, Mr. Powell said it was a report that was involved, not an appeal. The correspondent said there was an appeal in the last paragraph of the report. Mr. Powell acknowledged that that paragraph was also involved. There had been no response from the parties to that paragraph.

A correspondent said the United Arab Republic had given an answer (document S/9321). Mr. Powell said the letter might be interpreted, he supposed, as a response, but the letter in question was addressed to the President of the Security Council, not the Secretary-General. The correspondent said the letter in question did however mention the Secretary-General's report. Mr. Powell agreed that it did.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the latest statement of the Government of South Viet-Nam (on national elections), Ramses Nassif said there was no comment.

To a question on whether anybody, other than the main parties, had responded to the Secretary-General's special report on Suez, Mr. Powell said they had not. Asked if there had been any more firing on United Nations installations, he said the latest UNTSO report, which would be out this afternoon, showed there had been two instances of firing, from the United Arab Republic, on OP's Pink and Silver. There had been very minor damage to one caravan, which was already officially listed as destroyed.

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Asked if there was any comment on the conviction, in South Africa, of the editor of the Rand Daily Mail, Laurence Gandar, he said there was not.

The greater part of the briefing concerned a speech delivered by Mr. Bunche in Honolulu, reported in the papers today. The questions were asked by Messrs. Mezerik (International Review Service), Oatis (Associated Press), Berlin (New York Post), Grant (St. Louis Post Dispatch), Estabrook (Washington Post) and Reddi (Indian Express).

A correspondent said that Mr. Bunche had made a very interesting speech. Would it be released here? Mr. Powell said Mr. Bunche had made the speech as a private individual. He was on leave, and the speech had been release in Honolulu. Asked if "the Stoessinger rule applies to Mr. Bunche", and whether the Secretary-General had been aware of the speech, he said the Secretary-General had been aware that Mr. Bunche planned to make a speech.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been aware of the content, he said he had been. Asked if the Secretary-General agreed with Mr. Bunche that recent election results in Minneapolis, Los Angeles and New York reflected racism, he said there was no comment on the speech. Asked if the Secretary-General agreed with Mr. Bunche's implied criticism of President Nixon, Mr. Nassif said he had been speaking as a private individual. Mr. Powell said he had been speaking as an American, not a United Nations Under-Secretary.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had authorized the content of Mr. Bunche's speech, Mr. Powell said he had not. Asked how Mr. Bunche could then deliver it, he repeated that Mr. Bunche was speaking as a private individual. A correspondent said that if the Secretary-General was aware of the content in advance, he had therefore authorized what was said. Mr. Powell said that was not the case. He had been "aware of the content, but had not authorized the content". Asked if there were two sets of rules, one affecting "a Vista case, and one regarding Mr. Bunche", he said there were different rules, as explained previously for oral statements and the printed word.

On this point, Mr. Powell said he himself was authorized to make speeches on the United Nations and had automatic clearance to do so. If however he was to write anything, he would need clearance. Asked if he was serious when he said

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he could say anything about the United Nations without further clearance, he said he could speak on any aspect of the United Nations. He was on the authorized list of speakers about the United Nations. Did this mean he could say anything he wished? He repeated that he was authorized to make speeches, but would require authorization for an article. Asked if his own speeches were as a private individual, he said not when he spoke about the United Nations.

A correspondent asked what he would do if he wished to make a speech on other than the United Nations. Mr. Powell said that if he were to speak, for example, on folk dancing in Latin America, he would feel he had to inform his superiors. Asked if authorization in such a case would be for content or subject, he said content. He was asked what would happen if he were to speak about "the military-industrial complex". Somewhat insistently, he avowed that he had no such intention.

Another correspondent recalled that after "the Vista episode" it had been said that the staff rules involved were being reviewed. He said that was so. Mr. Stark was looking into them, but no new rules had been issued. Asked "is Mr. Bunche a party to the review", Mr. Nassif said he was not.

Asked "if the freedom to speak on other subjects goes with the office", Mr. Powell said "I don't know how to answer that". Asked if the Secretary-General was aware of any further speeches planned by Mr. Bunche, while on leave, Mr. Nassif said there were no more speeches planned, as far as he was aware. The correspondent said that if Mr. Bunche made another speech it could be assumed that it was not authorized. Mr. Nassif said correspondents kept using the word "authorized". What had been said was that the Secretary-General was "aware of the speech" before it was made. The correspondent said that what appeared to be meant was that "Mr. Bunche has been authorized by the Secretary-General to make a speech in his private capacity". Mr. Nassif agreed.

To a question on who was the leading authority on the Middle East, while Mr. Bunche was away, Mr. Powell said Mr. Bunche was in daily touch with the United Nations. A correspondent said that Mr. Powell had said that Mr. Bunche was on leave. **Mr. Powell** said "he is on leave but in daily touch with office". The briefing, and the correspondents, broke up.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

14 July 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General was feeling much more comfortable and was recovering normally. In the next day or two he hoped to give more definitive information on when the Secretary-General would leave hospital.

He drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement to ECOSOC, in Geneva, delivered by Philippe de Seynes, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. (SG/SM/1132-ECOSOC/2712.)

Mr. Powell said there were two further UNTSO reports which would be issued this afternoon, covering firing in the Suez sector Saturday and Sunday.

Asked if any of the OP's had been hit over the weekend, he said that on Saturday OP Silver had been hit by six rifle shots from the UAR side. The OP had not been illuminated, and there had been no Israeli troops in the vicinity. On Sunday, OP Silver had been hit by three rifle shots from the UAR side. The OP had been illuminated, and there had been no Israeli troops in the vicinity.

Asked if all was quiet on the Israel-Syria front, he said there had been no reports of incidents there for the last two or three days.

To a question on whether there was anything new on Mr. Ortiz-Sans and West Irian, he said the Secretary-General's Representative had left Djajapura on 13 July to observe the act of free choice in the eight regencies in the territory and would go to Merauke first. Asked if there was anything in on disturbances in the territory, he said there was not.

Ramses Nassif announced that C.V. Narasimhan would represent the Secretary-General at the launching of Apollo Eleven (the manned moon-shot) at Cape Kennedy on Wednesday. Asked if a UN flag would be carried, he said he did not know. There had been all kinds of press reports, he observed.

A correspondent said that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was issuing a press release on the 17th saying that the 17 members, in 1968, gave development funds amounting to 0.97% of the combined national income of the developing countries. He said this figure was much higher than anything released by the United Nations. Mr. Powell suggested that the correspondent contact OPI's CESI.

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15 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said, in anticipation of questions, that no request had been received from any Member State for a meeting of the Security Council.

Asked if it was the practice for a dispute like the one between El Salvador and Honduras to come first before the regional body -- the Organization of American States -- Mr. Powell said that, under Article 52 of the Charter, the Security Council is to "encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through ... regional arrangements or ... regional agencies...".

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General's recovery was continuing to progress satisfactorily and that he was comfortable.

He then said that, although the United Nations was not in the habit of giving out information on the appointments or travel of Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Middle East, except by Mr. Jarring's own decision, he would say, in view of the publicity given in some quarters to the matter, that Mr. Jarring had planned to meet Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel, in Zurich yesterday. Had they in fact met? Mr. Powell said that there had not been any signal from Mr. Jarring on that point. Mr. Jarring would report to the Secretary-General in due course.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring had been on a short vacation in southern Sweden. Had the Secretary-General planned to meet with Mr. Jarring in Geneva on the trip which the Secretary-General had had to cancel? Mr. Powell said he did not believe so. How had the meeting between Mr. Jarring and Mr. Eban been arranged? Mr. Powell said he had no information on that point, but he would recall that it had previously been stated that Mr. Jarring was maintaining constant contact with the Secretary-General and was also in touch with the parties. But how could he do so from Moscow, inasmuch as Israel had no representative there? Mr. Powell said, "through channels". He could not go into this question. Another correspondent remarked that Mr. Jarring might have arranged the appointment while he was on holiday in Sweden. Mr. Powell said, "Your speculation is as good as mine". When had Mr. Powell known about this appointment? He had known "in advance",

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he said, and so, of course, had the Secretary-General. Might the Secretary-General now arrange to meet with Mr. Jarring? Mr. Powell noted that the Secretary-General was under doctor's orders not to travel for some time. Would Mr. Jarring come here? He had no idea, he said. He believed Mr. Jarring was resuming his vacation in Sweden and would remain there for the rest of July. Was Mr. Jarring meeting with other Foreign Ministers? Mr. Powell said he had no information.

On other matters, Ramses Nassif said, in reply to questions, that he hoped the Secretary-General would be able to leave the hospital by the end of this week. The Secretary-General was in touch with the office by telephone and some officials had been to see him.

Asked if he could confirm that Lieut. General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, had been fired at the day before yesterday while inspecting shelters in the Suez Canal sector, Mr. Powell said that all he knew was that General Bull had been in the area at that time on an inspection trip. In reply to a question, he said he believed General Bull had been on the east bank of the Canal.

A correspondent asked if there was a way of finding out whether the Vice-President from Peru would exercise his prerogative of appointing the members of the committee to investigate "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories" before the start of the next General Assembly session. Mr. Powell suggested that the correspondent get in touch with Oscar Faura, Press Officer of the Peruvian delegation, regarding developments. In reply to a question, he said that the Secretary-General had not yet been informed of the results of the consultations. Was the Secretary-General leaving the matter completely to the Vice-President from Peru? There had been agreement, said Mr. Powell, that the Vice-President from Peru should handle it. Was the Secretary-General taking a role? He did not think so. Was anyone else here doing so? Not so far as Mr. Powell was aware. If the Vice-President from Peru wanted to contact anyone on the 38th floor, who would be the one? Mr. Powell said it would probably be C.V. Narasimhan, as Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs.

Asked who would be the person dealing with Middle East matters, Mr. Powell said it would probably be Brian Urquhart, Director in the Office of Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

Would there be a United Nations message in the capsule to be taken to the moon by the Apollo 11 astronauts? The Secretary-General had not been invited to send a message, he said.

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16 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell released the text of the appeal by the Secretary-General to Honduras and El Salvador. (S/9332 and 9333.) He said it had been transmitted to the Foreign Ministers of the two countries yesterday. They are: Francisco José Guerrero (El Salvador) and Tiburcio Carias Castillo (Honduras). Asked if there had been any response, he said there had not been.

He said the expectation was that the Council would meet on the Zambian complaint (against Portugal) on Friday morning, but this was not yet firm. He hoped to announce a definite time this afternoon.

Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General had watched the manned moon flight launching on T.V. this morning. He said: "The Secretary-General wishes astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins good luck and God-speed. He is looking forward to their successful landing on the moon and their safe return to earth".

Mr. Powell read out the text of the Secretary-General's letter to Ambassador Yost, of the United States, regarding the UN card and stamps to be left on the moon and described the stamps. He said the United States mission had confirmed that the card was on its way to the moon. Photographs of the card and stamps were issued. (For details see Press Release SG/SM/1133.)

Asked if the initiative had been that of the Secretary-General or the United States, he said the Secretary-General. To a question on whether the United States had asked the UN to do anything, he said it had not. Regarding the possibility of a UN flag being implanted, he said he knew that no UN flag had been supplied by the United Nations. A correspondent said there were reports that the astronauts had wanted to put the UN flag on the moon. Had they initiated the question of the card? He said they had not.

Asked how the card would be left on the moon, he said "we will have to watch TV". He said it was not in any container. It was laminated. Asked if the astronauts would bury it, he said that was a question for Mr. Armstrong. The material was paper; a UN airmail postcard.

He acknowledged as a good question a query on how the UN had known how much postage to put on the card.

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A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had read a leading article in the London Times, of 15 June, whereby Bertrand Russell said man should keep off the moon. Mr. Nassif said he would check. (Another correspondent -- an American, possibly of jingoistic persuasion -- said the article was also in today's Wall Street Journal -- "a more reputable journal".)

Asked what there was in on West Irian, Mr. Powell said the act of free choice had begun on 14 July and Mr. Ortiz Sanz was observing the procedure in each of the consultative assemblies. Asked what he had reported to the United Nations, he said nothing so far.

To a question on the Jarring-Eban meeting, he said Mr. Jarring was now back in Sweden continuing his holiday. Asked if they had met, he said he had no actual confirmation from Mr. Jarring.

Asked if Israel had replied regarding the Jerusalem Security Council resolution, Mr. Powell said it had not. Asked if the United Arab Republic had replied directly regarding safe perimeters for the Observers, he said there was nothing new.

To a question on whether Hanoi had contacted the United Nations in any way about the UN's supervising free elections, Mr. Nassif said there had been no contact, to the best of his knowledge.

Asked how soon Mr. Jarring would resume his mission, Mr. Powell said he had never given it up. Asked when Mr. Jarring would resume his visits to the various capitals, he said he had no guidance.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

17 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell pointed out that it had been announced yesterday evening that the Security Council would meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow on the Zambian complaint. He said that at the moment what was expected was that the parties (Zambia and Portugal) would be heard tomorrow.

Regarding the proclamation by President Nixon that Monday would be a national holiday in the United States, he said that the Secretary-General was studying the question in so far as it would affect the Secretariat, and he hoped to be able to announce this afternoon or tomorrow whether Monday would be a Secretariat holiday.

He said he very much regretted to announce that the United Nations postcard was not in the moon capsule. He had been informed yesterday by United States sources that the necessary arrangements had been made, but had been informed today that Mission Control at Cape Kennedy had made the decision not to send the card, because it had arrived too late for decontamination and because of weight considerations. The bulk of the briefing concerned this question; the queries in all cases appearing to be of a sympathetic tenor.

Asked why weight considerations were involved, Mr. Powell said he understood calculations in this case were made down to milligrams. Asked how much the postcard had weighed, he said he did not know, but there was also the question of decontamination involved.

A correspondent asked why there had been nothing asked of the United Nations regarding the flight in the first place. He said the Secretary-General had been invited to attend the launching, but of course had not been able to do so because of surgery. Mr. Narasimhan had gone instead. Also the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee had been invited. He said he had also been informed, by United States sources, that there was a miniature United Nations flag in the capsule, which would be returned to earth, and that a National Aeronautics and Space Administration press release stated that there were three United States flags aboard, one of which would be planted on the moon, one given to Congress, and one presented to the United Nations. Asked if the miniature United Nations flag would also be given to the Organization, he said he did not know.

(more)

Asked if the carrying of the United Nations flag was a late decision, he said he believed this had been planned from the beginning. Asked whether the post card had been returned, he said not yet . (One correspondent suggested it was being held for Apollo 12.)

To a question on whether Mr. Yost had approved the sending of the card, and whether Washington had approved also, Mr. Powell said the idea had been approved all along. It had been purely an operational decision not to include it. He had been told by United States sources yesterday that the arrangements had been made to carry the card, and had therefore released the information. Subsequently, he had been told about the operational decision.

Asked if any explanation had been given as to why the Secretary-General had not been invited to send a message to be carried in the moon capsule, Ramses Nassif said it had not. To a question on how the United Nations flag had been obtained, Mr. Powell said he did not know. The United Nations had not been approached on the matter.

Asked when the card had reached Cape Kennedy, Mr. Powell said the card had accompanied the letter from the Secretary-General to Mr. Yost of 11 July, which had been given to the United States Mission on that day. Asked if it had been mailed to Cape Kennedy then, he said he did not know.

To a question on whether the United Nations Outer Space Committee had ever been asked to do anything regarding the moon shot, he said it had not. He recalled that the Chairman of the Committee had been invited to the launching. Asked if the Secretary-General should have been officially informed in advance of the shot, under the Outer Space Treaty, he said he would have to check the Treaty.

Asked if the United Nations flag had been carried on other flights, Mr. Powell recalled that in 1965 Colonel White had taken up a United Nations flag, given to him by his father, who had served in Korea, and had later given it to the Secretary-General.

Asked if the Moscow Office of the United Nations had informed the United Nations that Soviet cosmonauts would carry a United Nations flag, he said it had not.

On other matters, a question was asked on whether the Secretary-General had seen the Foreign Minister of India last night. Mr. Nassif said he had not. A reception had been planned for the Foreign Minister for today, with Mr. Narasimhan

(more)

presiding in the absence of the Secretary-General, but this had been cancelled when the Foreign Minister had had to go back to New Delhi last night at short notice.

Asked to confirm, for the record, that Mr. Jarring and Mr. Eban had met this week, Mr. Powell said they had. Asked at whose request the meeting had taken place, he said he had no guidance. Was there anything more to be said on the meeting? "No".

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18 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General had left hospital for home at about 11:45 a.m. today. He would remain at home for at least 10 days. Asked if he would have any appointments at home, Mr. Nassif said there were none scheduled at present, but there probably would be eventually, and they would be announced.

William Powell said there was no official list of speakers yet for today's Security Council meeting but it was expected that Zambia and Portugal would be heard.

He announced that Monday would be a holiday for the Staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York (in connexion with the national holiday proclaimed for the United States regarding the moon landing). If the Council was to meet, there would be the usual servicing, as when it met on a Saturday or Sunday.

Mr. Powell said there would be a report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, based on information from General Odd Bull, regarding yesterday's attempts to return the bodies of three United Arab Republic soldiers in the Suez sector. It might come out today or tomorrow, depending on final information from General Bull. He said, in reply to a question, that it would be two or three pages long.

Also today, he said, there would be a further UNTSO report on yesterday's firing in the Suez sector. There had been no firing on the OP's.

He then replied to questions asked before the briefing regarding United Nations maintenance workers (who, apparently, after a long incubation period, have contracted Hong Kong 'flu from the Security Guards).

Mr. Powell said "apparently an illness is involved" and of 165 maintenance workers, 63 who were expected to work had not come in. Most had said they were sick, without specifying the illness, three or four had requested emergency annual leave, and two or three had not contacted the United Nations at all. Thirty-five maintenance workers were in, and the balance were on scheduled annual leave.

He said the people involved were plumbers, truck drivers, gardeners and refrigeration engineers etc. He hastened to say that the compression room was manned, and therefore the air conditioning would not be affected.

(more)

Mr. Powell said he understood that some of the maintenance workers "are not happy with their present pay scale". On 1 June 1969, a new scale had gone into effect giving a pay increase of 6 per cent, but, since the United Nations paid United States income tax for the workers, the increase in real terms was 7.8 per cent because the United Nations paid the current income tax surcharge as well. There had also been a 6 per cent increase last year. The present scale ranged from \$5,890 gross for an unskilled labourer to \$13,730 for a foreman. There were only two or three in the latter category. Most of the personnel were in the M-4 category, where 67 people were in the scale of \$7,970 to \$9,690.

The scales were based on an industry wide survey in New York and the United Nations attempted to pay more than 75 per cent of the firms surveyed.

Asked if they had a union, he said they did not. Negotiations were conducted through staff representatives. The United Nations did not negotiate salaries with any union, he said in reply to a question.

Asked what was the basis for the claim of 18 per cent, over the present scale, he said this was an equation with New York City employees, who were classed with construction workers. The United Nations, he repeated, paid better than 75 per cent of comparable jobs in New York.

A correspondent said an Indonesian General, speaking in Australia, had said that if the West Irians did not choose to stay with Indonesia, this would cause trouble for Indonesia, Australia and the world. What were the reports from Mr. Ortiz-Sanz? Mr. Powell said all he could say was that Mr. Ortiz-Sanz was in West Irian, observing the act of free choice. Asked when that would end, he said 4 August.

He said, in reply to questions, that there was nothing further to be said on the Eban-Jarring talks. (A correspondent tried to elicit a comment in the light of press reports from Cairo, stating that Mr. Eban had tried to get Mr. Jarring to resume his mission in the area, but had failed.)

Asked whether Mr. Jarring would return to Moscow after seeing Mr. Sisco in Sweden (press reports say this meeting has taken place), Mr. Powell said Mr. Jarring was scheduled to be on vacation until the end of July, and then to return to Moscow.

To a question on whether Mr. Sisco or the United States Mission had reported to the Secretary-General on the Moscow talks, Mr. Nassif said not yet, but he assumed that the Secretary-General would be informed, as he had previously been informed on earlier talks.

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22 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General was at home. His recovery was progressing well, and he was in regular touch with his office. Asked if the Secretary-General was seeing delegates at home, Ramses Nassif said he would check.

Mr. Powell drew attention to the statement by the Secretary-General yesterday on the Apollo 11 moon walk (Press Release SG/SM/1134).

There were no speakers listed as yet for this afternoon's Security Council meeting on the Zambian complaint against Portugal, he said. He drew attention to a letter from 32 African States, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, supporting Zambia's complaint (S/9340), and to a request from the United Republic of Tanzania to participate in the Council's discussions on this question (S/9341).

Mr. Powell also drew attention to a number of additional UNTSO reports on the firing in the Suez Canal sector, which had been received in the last few days. A further report would be issued this afternoon.

Asked if there were any "suggestions, whispers, rumours" of a Security Council meeting on the Middle East, he said that there were none, as of now. Nor were there any indications of a Council meeting on micro-States.

Asked about radio reports that Lieutenant General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, had gone to Cairo to see President Nasser, Mr. Powell said that General Bull was scheduled to go to Cairo today. However, he did not know whether General Bull would see President Nasser. Was Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, going to the Middle East or remaining in Moscow? Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring was still on holiday in southern Sweden.

Asked if the Secretary-General was kept informed of the progress of the United States-Soviet talks on the Middle East, Mr. Nassif said he would check. Asked if Israel had responded to the Security Council resolution on Jerusalem, Mr. Powell said no. How long would the Secretary-General wait for a reply? Mr. Powell said he did not think the Secretary-General had set a date. He would probably wait a short time more before sending a reminder. Was there any follow-up to the Secretary-General's report on the dangers to the United Nations Military

(more)

Observers in the Suez Canal sector, in view of the current fighting? Mr. Powell said there was none "beyond what General Bull may be doing on the spot".

Asked if the Secretary-General planned to issue a statement on the "accident or disaster" involving nerve gas in Okinawa, or to take some other initiative in the matter, Mr. Nassif said, "Not for the moment, anyway". The Secretary-General had received a cable over the weekend, signed by Shinei Kiamu, President of the Prefectural Council for Reversion to the Mainland, regarding the matter. The cable, he said, was under study. Did it ask for action? Yes, the removal of nerve gas from Okinawa. Had any delegation asked for circulation of this cable? Not that he knew of, said Mr. Nassif.

Did such a cable come "under human rights or what"? a correspondent asked. Mr. Powell replied that if the Secretary-General received a message and decided to study it, he studied it. How about domestic jurisdiction? Mr. Powell said he did not know how to answer such a question. To further questions, he said that Okinawa was not under trusteeship nor was it a non-self-governing territory.

A correspondent noted that an appeal on behalf of Anatoly Marchenko, a Soviet writer, was reported to have been sent from Moscow to the United Nations by the Action Group for the Defense of Civil Rights in the Soviet Union. Mr. Powell said he would check.

Had any response been received from Honduras and El Salvador to the Secretary-General's appeal? Not yet, Mr. Powell said.

Asked about reports that Indonesian paratroopers had fought with West Irianese rebels during the last few days, Mr. Powell said that none had been received here. Had any reports been received about the elections which had taken place on 14 and 15 July? Mr. Powell said that the act of free choice had taken place in two provincial assemblies in recent days. "Isn't it odd that there are not more reports, with a representative of the Secretary-General there? a correspondent asked. Mr. Powell said that Fernando Ortiz Sanz, the Secretary-General's Representative, would make a report at the conclusion of the act of free choice. His interim reports to the Secretary-General were not made public.

Why was West Irian not on the agenda of the General Assembly? Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General was not obligated to put it on the agenda, only to report to the Assembly. Why was Korea not on the agenda? He said that the resolution adopted last year on that question gave the answer.

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Mr. Powell was then asked to "expand" on the announcement that C.V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet and Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, would serve as Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (Press Release SG/A/84-DEV/389). What was the story? he was asked. "The story is in the press release", said Mr. Powell.

How long would Mr. Narasimhan hold all three posts? This was an interim arrangement, said Mr. Powell. He added, in reply to a question, that David Owen, previous holder of the post of Deputy Administrator, had retired. To further questions, he said that the term of Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the UNDP, would expire at the end of 1970.

A correspondent remarked that the Secretary-General was presumably looking for successors to Mr. Narasimhan in his two present posts. Who were the candidates? Mr. Powell said "wouldn't you like to know"?

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23 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, a question was asked about "printed rumours that the Secretary-General will retire or resign soon". Ramses Nassif said, "That's a lot of nonsense". The Secretary-General had no plans to leave before the end of his term in December 1971. Would the Secretary-General be amenable to another term? Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had never said that he would or that he wouldn't.

To questions about the announcement yesterday that Constantin A. Stavropoulos, the Legal Counsel, had been designated as Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs (Press Release SG/A/85), Mr. Nassif said that Mr. Stavropoulos would also continue as Legal Counsel. Would this mean a change in Mr. Stavropoulos's salary or pension? No.

Asked about the post of Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General, now held by C.V. Narasimhan, William Powell noted that yesterday's announcement stated that Mr. Narasimhan would continue in that post until the Secretary-General found it possible to release him to take over the duties of Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on a full-time basis. Obviously, said Mr. Powell, the Secretary-General could not release him until a successor was found. Was the Secretary-General looking around for one? Mr. Nassif said, "When a decision is made, we promise to let you know". But was the Secretary-General actually looking for someone now? "He is turning the matter over in his mind", said Mr. Powell. Would Mr. Narasimhan remain in his present office or would he be in the Alcoa Building at UNDP headquarters? He would be sometimes in one place and sometimes in the other.

On the Middle East, a correspondent asked if Lieutenant General Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, was still in Cairo. No, said Mr. Powell, it had been a one-day visit. General Bull had seen Ambassador Gohar. There would be a report on the firing yesterday in the Suez Canal sector but none on the conversations in Cairo.

Did the Secretary-General have any reaction to a statement in Cairo that the war had passed "from the defensive to the liberation stage"? Mr. Powell asked that the question be recorded.

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On other matters, Mr. Powell said that the Soviet Union and Portugal were listed so far to speak at this afternoon's Security Council meeting on the Zambian complaint.

In reply to questions asked previously, he said that the United Nations would be "delighted" if the Apollo 11 astronauts came here on 13 August. A check was being made with the United States Mission to see whether a visit could be fitted into their schedule for the New York visit that day.

Mr. Powell informed correspondents that Alan Moritz, a pathologist from Cleveland, would testify tomorrow morning before the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, regarding "the circumstances surrounding the death of a political detainee in South Africa on 10 March 1969". According to the official report, he said, the detainee had committed suicide. However, according to press reports, an independent panel of inquiry, of which Dr. Moritz was a member, had established that the detainee had been subjected to electric shocks before his death.

Mr. Powell said that the Unit on Apartheid would issue a paper tomorrow, in its Notes and Documents series, containing background information on this case and on other political detainees.

Why was this being mentioned at the briefing? Mr. Powell said that he had been asked to draw it to the attention of correspondents. Had Dr. Moritz been to South Africa? Yes, said Mr. Powell. He believed that the independent panel of inquiry had been invited there.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

24 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell, as previously announced over the loud-speaker, said that Mr. Sisco of the United States had gone to see the Secretary-General at Riverdale. He said there would be nothing further to say on the meeting.

The only speaker, so far, in this afternoon's Security Council meeting: Zambia.

Mr. Powell said once the astronauts were aboard the carrier the Secretary-General would send a congratulatory message to President Nixon and the message would then be released.

Asked if the astronauts would come to the United Nations, he said he had checked with the United States Mission and this matter was still being worked on. Asked to whom the congratulatory message went, he said it always went to the Head of State concerned, in this case Mr. Nixon.

To a question on when the Secretary-General would return to his desk, Ramses Nassif said, hopefully, Monday or Tuesday. Asked if the appointment at Riverdale was the first, other than Secretariat members, the Secretary-General had had there, Mr. Nassif said it was. To a question on whether there would be others, he said he did not know. Mr. Powell added that there certainly were no more for today.

Asked if the Secretary-General had written to the United Arab Republic and Israel, expressing disquiet over the fact that Israel was using planes in the Suez sector and that the United Arab Republic was threatening "so-called liberation", Mr. Powell said he would check.

To a question on whether the spokesmen had passed on yesterday's query about reaction to President Nasser's statement, they said they had. The correspondent thanked them for taking him seriously. Mr. Nassif said they were not in the habit of treating the briefing as a joke.

A question was asked about the Secretary-General's reaction to stories on how he was going to react to the way he was treated regarding the moon shot. (There have been speculative stories that the Secretary-General will not complete his term. Somewhat oddly, the reasons given are Viet-Nam, the Middle East, and the fact that the astronauts did not carry a UN flag.)

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Mr. Nassif said "this matter was dealt with yesterday, and it is too bad that it has come up again". Asked if he would describe today's story (in the Washington Post) as nonsense too, he said "if you wish". Mr. Powell added, regarding the moon shot, that in fairness it should be recalled that on the landing the Secretary-General had immediately issued a very warm statement of congratulations.

Asked if the United Nations postcard had been returned from Cape Kennedy, with a covering letter, and what the letter had said, Mr. Powell said he would check.

Asked if there was anything further on one of the United States flags carried by the astronauts being given to the United Nations, he said all he knew was what was in the NASA release at the time.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

25 July 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell stated that only one delegation was scheduled to speak in the debate on the Zambian complaint in the Security Council this afternoon: the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Powell also said that document S/7930/Add.279 reporting aircraft attacks in the Suez Canal sector was now available and was the most recent report from General Odd Bull. In reply to a question regarding the possibility of the Secretary-General changing his stand on the Middle East, Mr. Powell replied that U Thant stood by the statements made in his report of 5 July and every day his assessment of the situation becomes more valid.

The Secretary-General is expected to return to United Nations Headquarters on Monday.

One correspondent said that General Odd Bull stated on his last visit to New York that United Nations observers could not identify aircraft involved in attacks along the Suez Canal. The correspondent wished to know if there had been any thought of supplying radar to United Nations observers there. Mr. Powell replied that radar was expensive and that there was no indication that United Nations observers would be supplied with such equipment.

Asked if there were any indication that United Nations observers would be withdrawn if the firing on their posts in Suez continued, Mr. Powell replied that there was no indication that the observers would be withdrawn. He called attention to relevant portions of the Secretary-General's report of 5 July. Yesterday a bullet crashed into a United Nations installation, but no one was injured.

Mr. Powell said in response to a question that he presumed that the question in Namibia would not be taken up by the Security Council until after completion of discussion on the Zambian complaint.

Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General would have nothing to say on his meeting in Riverdale with Mr. Sisco of the United States Government, other than that Mr. Sisco reported to him on the recent US-USSR talks on Middle East in Moscow.

On the subject of United States astronauts, Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had sent a message to President Nixon yesterday and did not plan any further statement.

There has been no follow-up letter received on the question of U.S. deployment of war gasses and biological weapons in Okinawa.

28 July 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General was at home today. He was expected to be back at his office in the Secretariat building later this week. He had appointments today, at Riverdale, with Tunisia at 11 a.m. and Poland at noon. U Thant was in close touch with his office regarding the situation in the Middle East.

Regarding the tragic death of Major Plane, the Swedish observer, he said General Odd Bull was conducting an investigation so that a full report could be made to the Security Council. Besides the preliminary report on Major Plane's death (document S/1930/Add.284) there was reference to this incident in a report on yesterday's firing in the Suez area, which would be available between 3 and 4 p.m. today. This report on the firing was not to be regarded as the final report on the incident.

Mr. Powell announced that the Secretary-General, through the office of Under-Secretaries for Special Political Affairs, was in touch with the seven countries contributing observers in the Suez sector. There would be an informal working group meeting with representatives of the countries involved, this afternoon, at which the Secretary-General, through the office of the Under-Secretaries, would be informing them of current developments. A more formal meeting with these representatives would be convened by the Secretary-General later this week, when he returned to his office.

He said the Security Council would meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, regarding Namibia.

At about 1 p.m. a Press Release will be available in the note verbale series containing the text of a letter, sent by the Secretary-General, over the weekend, to Member States of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, concerning the present state of finances of UNRWA. Attached was a special report by the Commissioner General, Mr. Michelmore.

Ramses Nassif then made the following statement, prompted by "several questions, asked again and again.":

"In view of speculation in press reports regarding the Secretary-General's tenure of office, I am authorized to state that U Thant has no intention of resigning and plans to serve the remainder of his term."

(more)

In reply to a question, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General's term ran until 31 December 1971.

The rest of the briefing was devoted to questions regarding the observers.

Asked if Mr. Rolz-Bennet would preside over the working group meeting this afternoon, Mr. Powell said it would be Brian Urquhart. Asked his title, Mr. Powell said Director, in the Office of the Under-Secretaries for Special Political Affairs. He said, in reply to a further question, that the seven countries involved were Argentina, Austria, Chile, Finland, France, Ireland and Sweden.

Asked if any medal would be given to the family of the late Major Plane, Mr. Powell said medals were given to the observers for service with the United Nations. He did not know the custom regarding families. The Secretary-General had sent his condolences to the Swedish Government and General Odd Bull had sent his condolences to Major Plane's widow and two daughters, who were in Cairo.

To questions on the salaries of the observers, he said they were paid by their Governments, with a living allowance given by the United Nations. On questions regarding compensation, United Nations services for the deceased and the lowering of the United Nation's flags, he said practices varied from country to country but usually the family was compensated by the Government, which if it wished could make a claim on the United Nations. He had not heard of any services for Major Plane. The flags would not be lowered.

Asked if the observers were volunteers, he said the practice might vary from country to country. All observers were career professional officers. He did not know whether they volunteered to their Governments for service with the United Nations or whether this was regarded as a normal term of their military service.

In reply to further questions, he said today's meeting was at the initiative of the Secretary-General, would take place at 3 p.m., and would be on the 38th floor.

Asked what was the next step, and whether the Secretary-General would recommend the withdrawal of the observers, he said that was not the object of today's meeting which was an informal one to apprise contributing countries of the current situation. Asked if the Secretary-General would report to the Security Council after the more formal meeting, at which he planned to preside, Mr. Powell said he might, and he might not.

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A correspondent asked that the report of General Odd Bull to be published this afternoon be read out, in view of its urgency and interest. Mr. Powell said he did not have it, and in any case it could not be made available until Security Council members had it. It would be in their boxes between 3 and 4 p.m. and would then be made available to the Press.

Asked for an exact location of the OP where Major Plane was killed, he said it was at the south of the Canal, on the west side, near Port Tawfic. Asked to supply a map, he said he could not. (As in the past, the United Nations has not made maps available on the siting of the OPs, since no such maps has ever been requested or supplied to the Security Council).

To a question on whether he could say that Major Plane was killed by Israeli fire, he said that further details on the incident would be contained in the report to be circulated this afternoon. Asked if the information given out by a United Nations spokesman yesterday (that the observer had been killed by Israeli artillery) was right, he said that was correct "and I am not taking back anything".

Later in the briefing a correspondent said that the supplementary report of General Odd Bull released today did not say who had killed Major Plane. (It states that the observer was killed by artillery fire). He asked on what basis the statement had been made yesterday. Mr. Powell said it was based on information given by General Bull. The correspondent said that information had not been made public. Mr. Powell said that was correct. Asked if he still stood by yesterday's statement, he said he did.

To a question on when Mr. Bunche would return, Mr. Powell said he did not know exactly, but it would be in early August. A correspondent recalled that previously Mr. Powell had said that Mr. Bunche was in constant touch with the office. Had his advice being received regarding the meetings with the contributors? Mr. Powell said it had not. He believed the last time Mr. Bunche had been in touch with the office was by telephone, from Bangkok, on Friday.

Asked if there would be a special report to the Security Council on the working group, Mr. Powell suggested that that correspondent wait and see what came out of this meeting.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had any statement on the death of Major Plane, Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had authorized the statement last night about his concern regarding the situation and his deep regret at the death of the Swedish observer.

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To a question on whether there were 26 Swedish observers, and whether this was the largest contingent, he said the United Nations had never given out the numbers of the nationalities involved. It was not correct to speak of contingents, regarding observers. The total, on both sides of the Canal, varied between 92 and 95, depending on rotations. (A Swedish correspondent said there had been 26 Swedes, before the death of Major Plane.)

Asked if there had been any threats by contributors to withdraw their observers, he said "no, and we have no indications of this".

Asked if there had been any reactions from the contributors regarding the death of Major Plane, he said there had been a reaction from the Swedes. He knew of no other reactions, but they might be expressed at this afternoon's meeting.

Asked if the question of withdrawal of the observers would be discussed at this afternoon's meeting, he said it would not. To a question on whether he ruled out this possibility, Mr. Powell said "as far as the representative of the Secretary-General is concerned, this matter is not coming up".

Asked ~~what~~ they would discuss, he said the Secretary-General's representative would report on current developments and there would be a review of the recommendations on the safety of the observers which the Secretary-General had made in the past.

To a question on whether anything had been done on the Secretary-General's recommendations of the past, Mr. Powell said "because of the intensity of the firing, the attempt to strengthen the shelters has not been completed. There has been no progress regarding establishment of safe perimeters or having a boat in the Canal".

He said in reply to a question that he had nothing about a possible Security Council meeting on this question.

Asked if the observers were totally unarmed, he said they were.

A correspondent recalled that the spokesman last night had said the Secretary-General had expressed concern over the death of Major Plane. To whom had that concern been expressed? He said questions had been asked last night about the Secretary-General's response to the incident and the spokesman had been authorized to say that the Secretary-General was concerned.

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Asked if there was anything from the UAR or Israel, on the death of Major Plane, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Tekoah had expressed regret at the death of Major Plane in a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday. Asked if the letter would be made public, he said Israel had not requested circulation. A correspondent said the letter also transmitted the condolences of the Israeli Government on the death of Major Plane. Mr. Powell said he believed that was correct, although he himself had not seen the letter. Asked whether the Secretary-General had conveyed these condolences, he said the Secretary-General had expressed condolences on his own behalf. He did not know if he had transmitted Israel's condolences.

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29 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General would come into the office tomorrow. He had no appointments at Riverdale today.

He said General Bull's final report on the death of Major Plane was still awaited. It was hoped that it would come in tomorrow. He had no information on the funeral arrangements, and he would let correspondents know when he had the information. Major Plane would be buried in Sweden.

Mr. Powell said that a further report from UNTSO, to be issued this afternoon, would indicate the temporary suspension of observation from OP Mike (where Major Plane was killed) because the electrical and water supply systems had been knocked out and the temporary suspension of observation from OP Kilo and OP Red because General Bull regarded the shelters there as completely inadequate for the safety of the observers. They would be back in operation when there were adequate shelters. OPs Blue, Lima and Pink would take over the observation duties of these three OPs.

Asked where the OPs were, he said they were all at the South end of the Canal. OPs Mike, Kilo and Lima were on the West side, and OPs Red, Blue and Pink were on the East side. (OPs with colour designations are on the East side; all others on the West side.)

Asked if the OPs at Blue, Pink and Lima were considered adequate, as regards safety, he said for the time being, given the present intensity of the firing, they were considered so.

To a question on where the observers from the three temporarily suspended posts would go, he said that as regards OP Mike, the observer with Major Plane at the time of his death was assisting in the evacuation of the body, and would be going with it to Cairo. The observers from OPs Kilo and Red, he assumed, would have a short, well earned rest.

Asked where Major Plane was when he was killed, he said he assumed that he was on the platform, observing. Asked why he was not in the shelter, he said because he was observing. To a question on when the observers went to the shelter, he said they went there when in their judgement there was danger to their life if they continued observing from the platform.

(more)

Asked why the shelters had not been strengthened, he said the Secretary-General and General Bull had reported to the Security Council on the difficulty of doing this because of the firing. To strengthen the shelters, he said in reply to another question, the co-operation of the United Arab Republic and Israel was required. Asked if they had not been strengthened because of the intensity of the firing or the lack of co-operation, he said there had been co-operation when the shelters were built, but they had not been strengthened because of the firing. Asked how they could be strengthened, and by whom, he said a local ceasefire was required and working parties, agreed to by the two authorities, would do the strengthening.

To a question on when the electricity and water supplies had been knocked out at OP Mike, he said he believed it was on Saturday.

When asked what could be said on the meeting with Mr. Urquhart yesterday, he said representatives of the seven contributors of observers had been at the informal meeting. All had expressed confidence in General Bull and the operation as a whole and there had not been any suggestion from any representative that the observers should be withdrawn.

Asked when they would meet with the Secretary-General, he said at a later stage, still to be fixed. To a question on whether it was true that the representatives had asked that General Bull submit a report on how to strengthen the shelters, he said there was not a group request, but there had been a suggestion that General Bull make a further report on how the safety of the observers could be more adequately assured.

Regarding the 18 OPs, it was asked which were adequate and which needed strengthening, Mr. Powell said that information had been given in an earlier report, but he did not have it with him.

A correspondent said that a corrigendum issued today (Add.283/Corr.1) had the net effect of taking General Bull's name out of the report. He asked why. Mr. Powell said it could be that at the time of the report General Bull was in Cairo. Asked who had responsibility for reporting in General Bull's absence, he said his Chief of Staff. The correspondent said that with the corrigendum no source was given for the report. Mr. Powell said he would check why the corrigendum had been issued.

Asked if OP Mike had been damaged before Major Plane was killed, he said that was his reading. Asked if the death of Major Plane had triggered the suspension of observation from the OP, he said the temporary suspension was because of the question of water and electricity supplies.

(more)

A correspondent said that at one time General Bull had been going around trying to arrange a cease-fire, but this question was never mentioned any more. Mr. Powell said there was mention of attempts to arrange a cease-fire in the report to come out this afternoon.

Asked where the United Nations stood in regard to the announcement that Major Plane had been killed by an Israeli shell, he said that was the statement made on Sunday. Asked if he stood by it, he said he did. To a question on whether that statement had been made to the seven contributors yesterday, he said the question of the circumstances of the death had not come up. Each of the other representatives had expressed their condolences to the representative of Sweden. Thus, the correspondent said, the seven had not been told that Major Plane had been killed by an Israeli shell. Mr. Powell said that nothing had been said beyond the reports published. Asked if the United Nations regarded the damage to OP Mike as being done by Israeli shells, he said he had nothing to say beyond Saturday's report, the report issued yesterday and the preliminary report issued on Major Plane's death.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General was considering asking the Security Council to meet, he said not at this juncture.

Asked how many observers there were now, with the suspension of observation at three posts, he said there was an average of two observers to a post, and there would thus be a reduction of six in the numbers observing. Over-all, there were 92 to 95 observers in the Suez sector, with the figure varying with rotations. Asked if the United Nations knew the actual figure, he said General Bull did, but he reported only on a weekly basis to Headquarters on this question.

Asked how the posts could be manned on a 24-hour basis when there were only two observers to a post, he said it was a pretty rough duty. They had leave every six days, when possible. Asked if the one slept, while the other observed, he said if it wasn't too noisy.

A correspondent said that the best protection for the observers was a cease-fire. Had the Secretary-General raised this matter with the parties, and with the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union? He said the Secretary-General had previously raised the matter with representatives here, and General Bull had raised the matter on the spot. Asked if the Secretary-General had raised the

(more)

matter with the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union, Mr. Powell said not to his knowledge. To a question on whether the Secretary-General had discussed the question on whether the Secretary-General had discussed the question of a ~~cease~~-fire with the parties since Major Plane's death, he said he had not.

Regarding a question on whether any of the seven contributor countries had raised the question of a Security Council meeting, he said not that he was aware of.

Mr. Powell said that yesterday he had been asked about condolences. He said the Secretary-General had sent condolences to the Swedish Government, the Swedish army and a personal cable to Mrs. Plane. Israel, as stated yesterday, has sent condolences to the Secretary-General. The United Arab Republic had also sent condolences. Mr. Dayan of Israel, and Mr. Fawzi of the United Arab Republic had sent condolences to General Bull.

Mr. Powell said that the United Nations Guides were to have new uniforms and there would be a photo session in the General Assembly lobby at 4 p.m. The Press were invited.

Ramses Nassif spoke when it came to the question of the Guides, replying to questions by stating that they were having new uniforms because it was time for a change and that they had been designed by an American designer.

Asked if the new uniforms would be mini, Mr. Powell said "I am going to see."

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30 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General had returned to his office in Headquarters shortly after 11 a.m. today. His first official act had been to attend the annual private ceremony on the drawing of the name of the country which sits first on the row to the right of the podium for the General Assembly session, with the seating then arranged in alphabetical order from that seat. He said the Secretary-General had drawn Bulgaria. In the three previous years it had been Rwanda, Iraq and Colombia.

He drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement on Nigeria (SG/SM/1139, distributed to correspondents as they entered the briefing room).

Mr. Powell said that General Odd Bull's enquiry team into the death of Major Plane had flown back from Cairo to Jerusalem this morning. There was as yet no text of General Bull's final report, but it was hoped that it would be received this afternoon, and made available tomorrow.

He said that OP Mike, which had been closed down on Sunday, had been re-opened yesterday, after the repairs to the water and electricity supplies. There was nothing new regarding OP's Kilo and Red.

Listed to speak in this afternoon's Security Council meeting on Namibia: Colombia and Zambia.

Asked when the Secretary-General would meet with the seven contributing countries to the observers, he said there was no meeting scheduled yet. Asked if he still expected the meeting this week, he said he did. That had been the Secretary-General's intention.

To a question on whether any other OP's were closed, he said he believed one other had been, in April or May.

A correspondent (Mr. Esterbrook, Washington Post) asked for details on "the unusual statement" by the Secretary-General on Nigeria and whether it had been prepared for some time. The correspondent said the situation had been going on for a year and a half now. In his view this was "the strongest statement yet". Ramses Nassif said the reason behind the statement was the suspension of relief, and the Secretary-General had felt he should say something at this time.

(more)

Another correspondent (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe) said the situation was not new. Why had this time been chosen for a statement? Mr. Nassif said the timing of the statement was the Secretary-General's choice.

Asked if the statement had any connexion with the Pope's visit to Africa, he said it did not. Asked what concessions the Secretary-General wanted from both sides, Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to add to the statement.

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said the statement was unusual in not mentioning the Secretary-General's Representative in Nigeria. Mr. Powell said the Representative was still in Nigeria. Asked if he was to play a further role, Mr. Nassif said he was fulfilling his role. Asked what that role now was, Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to add to the statement.

Asked if the appeal was "out of the blue" or directed to somebody, he said it was clearly directed to both sides. Asked if it had actually been sent to both sides, he said it had been sent to Lagos "but we have never had any dealings with the others".

To a question on whether the sentence, stating that the first question was to move immediately the stocks, meant that they should go to other locations for later transport, he said that was correct. They should be moved to other locations from which aircraft could then move them to the stricken areas.

Asked how the appeal was to be transmitted to the other side, Mr. Nassif said "hopefully, through you".

To a question on whether there was any further news on future activities by Mr. Jarring, Mr. Powell said there was not.

Regarding the Secretary-General's appointment today with Thor Heyerdahl (of the Kon Tiki and Ra), a correspondent asked if a meeting could be arranged with Mr. Heyerdahl. The President of UNCA, Mr. Littlejohns, Reuters, said he had tried to arrange this but Mr. Heyerdahl's schedule was too tight. To a question on whether the Secretary-General was giving him a luncheon, Mr. Powell said he was not.

Asked whether it was expected that this week the Secretary-General would make clear his future action on the 3 July resolution (of the Security Council on Jerusalem), Mr. Powell said he would check.

To a request for details of the enquiry team into the death of Major Plane, he said that all he knew was that they were UNTSO officers.

(more)

Asked if the Secretary-General was going to take some urgent action regarding the Suez situation, he suggested that correspondents await the final report on the death of Major Plane.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General would request a meeting with President Nixon, after the latter's return from the Far East, Mr. Nassif said he doubted that very much. The Secretary-General could hardly ask a Head of State to see him.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

31 July 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments were with the Organization of African Unity Observer and the President of the Security Council for July, Mr. Boye (Senegal). Added later was an appointment with Mr. Porter McKeever, the President of the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

He drew attention to General Odd Bull's final report on the death of Major Plane (S/9368).

Mr. Powell then gave details of the funeral arrangements for Major Plane. He said the body would be taken from Cairo tomorrow, accompanied by Major A. Tyneluis, a Swedish observer, on SAS flight SK 872. Mrs. Plane and her two daughters would be on the flight. Major Plane will be given a military funeral, arranged by the Swedish authorities on Monday, 4 August, at 2:30 p.m. local time, at Eskilstuna. The Secretary-General will be represented by Kik Lehmkuhl, a Norwegian national, who is Director of the Copenhagen Information Centre.

Asked if this information had been released locally, in Cairo, Jerusalem or Stockholm, Mr. Powell said he did not know. Asked if a medal would be given to Mr. Plane's widow, he said medals were given to the various United Nations peace forces and the observers, as well as a ribbon. He was certain that if Major Plane had not already been given the UN medal, one would be given to his widow.

He said, in reply to a question, that he did not know whether the appointment with the President of the Security Council was to do with the question of observers, or Namibia or neither. Later, the spokesmen were asked if they could find out what the President of the Security Council was seeing the Secretary-General about, and Ramses Nassif said he would try, but he doubted very much that anything would be said.

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said that General Odd Bull's report was less dogmatic than the spokesman on Sunday, or Mr. Powell subsequently, in stating that Major Plane had been killed by an Israeli shell. Mr. Powell said that the final paragraph of General Odd Bull's report was perfectly clear. The correspondent said that the report did not say that Major Plane was killed by an Israeli shell. He said the report mentioned shrapnel. He asked if the

(more)

shrapnel had been analyzed and shown to come from an Israeli shell. Mr. Powell said he had nothing to add to what the report said, which stated that Major Plane had been killed by a shell coming from the northeast, which is Israeli occupied territory, "and I don't know who else is firing from there".

To a question on the composition of the inquiry team, he said it was headed by Colonel Siilasvuo, a Finn, General Odd Bull's deputy. There were two or three others on the team but he did not yet have their names. He confirmed that there was a doctor on the team.

A correspondent said that the report showed that there were 74 incidents in which the United Arab Republic had fired on OPs and 15 in which the Israelis had fired. He said reports had said that when the Egyptians fired on the OPs there were no Israeli troops in the vicinity. In the case of OP Mike, he said the report showed that there were Egyptian installations in the vicinity and some times tanks moved around the OP. He asked if the failure to agree on safe perimeters was equally distributed, and why no report had been issued on this particular matter. Mr. Powell said he did not know the answer to the first part of the question. General Odd Bull had been discussing the matter with the parties and when it was appropriate a report would be published.

A correspondent asked if one of the parties had said it would agree to safe perimeters, provided the other party agreed. Mr. Powell said that communications received regarding the safety of the observers had been issued as Security Council documents.

A correspondent asked if there was any comment on an Israeli spokesman's statement, objecting to General Odd Bull's report as being biased in not taking account of Egyptian responsibility for the incident. Mr. Powell said he did not know that the Israelis had made<sup>a</sup> statement. Another correspondent said that the Israeli spokesman's statement had said that the report failed to note Egyptian disavowal of the cease-fire. The correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on this disavowal. Mr. Powell said General Bull and the Secretary-General had made it clear in the report that both sides were in breach of the cease-fire.

A correspondent said that yesterday's New York Times had editorially called for a Security Council meeting regarding safety of the observers and the possibility of their withdrawal. Was there any reaction? Mr. Powell said there was no reaction to this editorial. The Secretary-General in his report today, called the attention of Security Council members to the peril to the observers.

(more)

The correspondent said that the Secretary-General had authority to call a Security Council meeting on his own. Why did he not do so? Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General would consider all aspects of the question after meeting with the 7 countries contributing the observers, in the light of future developments, with the possibility of further recommendations.

Asked when the Secretary-General would meet with the 7 countries, he said the meeting was not definitely scheduled, but there might be something to be said tomorrow.

In reply to a question he said a report had not yet come in from General Odd Bull on the request for further recommendations for the safety of the observers.

A correspondent said the Secretary-General had appealed individually and collectively to Security Council members regarding the safety of the observers. Did he intend to call in the Security Council members one by one? Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General did not intend to do this. His appeal was for all to do what they could do to ensure the safety of the observers. Asked if this was a different approach from the past, he said it was not. The particular phrase in question had been used before.

A correspondent pointed out that yesterday El-Fatah was reported as having stated that the United Nations observers would be treated as enemies. Was there any comment? Mr. Powell said there was none.

Another correspondent said the Secretary-General had now submitted a number of reports to the Council on the deterioration in the Suez sector. Would he now invoke article 99? (by which the Secretary-General himself can request a Security Council meeting). Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had not indicated any such intention.

Asked if the Secretary-General would recommend the withdrawal of the observers, or whether this matter would be discussed with the 7 contributor countries, Mr. Powell said a recommendation of withdrawal was not contemplated at this time. Asked if this question had been discussed with the seven, he said the question of withdrawal had not come up at the preliminary meeting this week. Asked if the question would arise when the seven met with the Secretary-General, Mr. Powell said he could not state categorically what anybody would say at the forthcoming meeting, but the question of withdrawal would not be raised by the Secretariat side, and he very much doubted that any of the representatives would raise the matter.

He said, in reply to a question, that he did not know whether General Bull's recommendations for further measures to ensure the safety of the observers would be

(more)

available by the time the seven met with the Secretary-General. Asked what would be discussed, in the absence of such a report, he said the Secretary-General had not been available when his representatives had first met with the seven, and now he was back at the office he felt he should meet with them himself.

Asked how long it was since the proposal for safe perimeters had been made, what was going on and why there was no report, Mr. Powell said he thought the matter had first been raised in April, and he could not say anything further on what was holding the matter up.

A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Transradio) said there was an algebraic equation in today's report, linking Major Plane's death to the deterioration of the cease-fire, which in itself was linked to the dragging tempo of the peace talks. Was the Secretary-General taking a new strong initiative to grapple with the Middle East problem. Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General was doing everything he could do to resolve the problem.

The same correspondent requested that the Secretary-General be asked to hold a special press conference on the Middle East. He said that correspondents with the responsibility to inform the public were up in the air and receiving a minimum of the briefing necessary for them to discharge their responsibilities. Mr. Nassif said he did not think a special press conference on the Middle East at this time would contribute very much.

A correspondent said that the Secretary-General had clearly expressed his alarm in the report. Had he spoken to the Israelis and the Egyptians since he returned to his office? Mr. Powell said not to his knowledge.

Mr. Estabrook (Washington Post), Vice-President of UNCA, terminated the briefing by saying "Thank you".

However a correspondent (Mr. Otis, Associated Press) continued to ask questions. He asked when the Secretary-General was going to reactivate Mr. Jarring. Mr. Powell replied that he was continuing his mission. The correspondent said "that is nonsense and you know it". Mr. Powell replied that he did not know that. Mr. Powell recalled that Ambassador Jarring had recently met with Mr. Eban in Zurich. The correspondent asked when Mr. Jarring would be back in the Middle East; Mr. Powell replied that he did not know.

An exchange continued on these lines as correspondents left the Briefing Room.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

1 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General's appointments today were with: the new Permanent Representative of Turkey, U. Haluk Bayulken, who is to present his credentials; the Ambassador of the United Arab Republic, Mr. El-Erian; the Ambassador of Spain, Don Jaime de Pinies; <sup>Chie of S. Armistice</sup> and with the representatives of the 7 countries contributing observers to UNTSO in Suez.

At 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 4 August 1969, there will be a brief memorial ceremony in honour of Major B.R. Plane outside the Meditation Room at United Nations Headquarters. The ceremony will be attended by the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council and the Acting Permanent Representative of Sweden, Mr. C. Torsten W. Orn. The Secretary-General will place a wreath beneath the plaque honouring United Nations observers who have died in the service of the organization (19 have died including Major Plane.)

Major Plane, of the Swedish Army, was killed while on duty with UNTSO on the western side of the Suez Canal, on 27 July. His funeral will be held in Sweden on the same day.

A correspondent asked at whose request was the meeting between the Secretary-General and the Ambassador of the UAR arranged, and Mr. Powell replied that he did not know.

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Note: After the briefing on 31 July an announcement was made regarding the membership of the Board which investigated the death of Major Plane. The Members were:

Commandant J.E. White (Ireland) UNTSO Observer  
Mr. Robert T. Myaing, Chief of the Survey and Investigation Section, UNTSO  
Mr. D.F. Hedgecock, Field Service Officer  
Mr. W. Wiedl, Field Service Officer

Please note that Col. Siilasvuo was not a member of the Board, contrary to the information given at the 31 July briefing.

8/4/69

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

4 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments were with Israel and Libya. He reminded correspondents of the wreath laying here in connexion with the death of Major Plane.

He said that shortly after the briefing a press release would be issued on the new United Nations Institute for Training and Research study "Status and Problems of Very Small States and Territories". It had been prepared under the supervision of Jaques Rapoport, of the Secretariat. About 50 copies of the report were available at the documents counter.

Asked who Mr. Rapoport was, he said he was a Secretariat member, of Belgian nationality, who for many years previously had been in the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territory.

Mr. Powell drew attention to the press release on the OPI Interne Programme (PI/69).

He had no speakers listed, as yet, in the Security Council meeting this afternoon, on Namibia.

Asked for a comment on reports of Israeli plans for the occupied territories, as given in the platform statement of the Israeli Labour Party, Mr. Powell said: "The Secretary-General has no comment on the platform per se, but he has frequently emphasized the need for a just and peaceful settlement to the Middle East problem in the context of the Security Council resolution of 22 November 1967."

Asked if the Secretary-General was emphasizing that part of the resolution calling for withdrawal from occupied territories, he said the Secretary-General took the resolution as a whole.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General would remind Israel about the Council's resolution on Jerusalem, he said the Secretary-General was planning to do so this week. Asked if this would be done orally, he said he did not know. But in any case a reminder would also be sent in written form, since the resolution, when adopted, had been transmitted in written form to Israel.

Asked if Mr. Jarring was still in the South of Sweden, he said Mr. Jarring's plans had been that he return to Moscow at the beginning of August.

During the briefing Ramses Nassif, quoting extremely reliable sources, "from neither East nor West", informed correspondents that today was Bill Powell's birthday.

Access to necessary background vital statistics was denied correspondents.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

5 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Secretary-General's appointments today were with the Ambassadors of Byelorussia, Guinea, Syria and Pakistan.

He said that correspondents will probably already have heard from a West German press release that Chancellor Kiesinger was going to see the Secretary-General at 10 a.m. tomorrow. The talk is expected to last for approximately 40 minutes, he said, and he added that a brief meeting of the Chancellor with the press would be arranged at approximately 10:40 in front of the Chagal window in the Secretariat lobby. Mr. Powell said that the Chancellor's schedule was tight, and he would be leaving for Washington immediately afterwards.

Asked whether there would be talks or whether this was to be a courtesy visit he said that correspondents had to wait and see. The meeting had been arranged by the West German Observer Mission.

Asked when the final report on West Irian would come out, Mr. Powell said that today was the last day of consultations. There would be two reports, one by Mr. Ortiz Sanz and one by the Indonesian Government, and the Secretary-General would eventually submit a report to the the General Assembly. Asked whether there would be an agenda item on that subject, he said this may or may not be so.

Replying to other questions, Mr. Powell said that there was no date set for the Secretary-General's meeting with the representatives of the seven countries providing observers. Also, that there was no formal report in hand yet by General Odd Bull.

Asked whether it could be reasonably assumed that the Secretary-General's meetings with the representatives of the United Arab Republic, Israel and Syria were connected with the observer question, Mr. Powell said that it could be reasonably assumed that they were connected with the Middle East.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

6 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had seen Chancellor Kiesinger for 45 minutes and that they had exchanged views on the subject of financial contributions of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations voluntary programmes, also on the current international developments including Viet-Nam, the Middle East and the European situation.

Asked how much the West German contribution was, Mr. Powell said that that country contributed to various programmes and that he had no figures readily available. He said he could not state off-hand whether West Germany had contributed to the United Nations deficit or to Cyprus.

Asked whether West Germany had promised to increase its contribution to the second development decade, Mr. Nassif said he could not add anything to what he had said. To another question, namely whether West Germany was not the fourth biggest contributor to UNDP, he said that he thought that this was so.

Asked who had been present at the talks, Mr. Nassif said that, on the German side, it had been the Observer of the Federal Republic and another aide, on the Secretary-General's side Mr. Narasimhan and Mr. Rolz-Bennett.

A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel) asked who had taken the initiative on the Middle East. Mr. Powell replied that the talks had been described as a conversation. When the correspondent continued pressing that question, Mr. Nassif repeated that he had nothing to add to his statement. Mr. Gabriel asked whether Mr. Nassif had been present Mr. Nassif replied that he never attended such talks.

Mr. Powell then announced that the Apollo 11 astronauts would visit the United Nations on 13 August. The details of the visit were not yet decided, but after the ticker tape parade, Mayor Lindsay would hold a reception at City Hall to which the Secretary-General was also invited. The Secretary-General would then ride with the astronauts to the United Nations, where the Secretary-General would officially welcome the party. That would be on the North Terrace, or in case of inclement weather inside the General Assembly lobby. The United Nations staff would be invited to attend the ceremony.

(more)

Mr. Gabriel, returning to the Secretary-General's talk with Chancellor Kiesinger, asked how the subject of Viet-Nam had come up, who had raised it. Mr. Nassif replied that Viet-Nam had been one of the subjects when they discussed current developments.

Asked whether there was already agreement on safe perimeters for observers in the Suez sector, Mr. Powell said that there was none yet. He also said that there was no final report from General Odd Bull yet on his further suggestions for improving the safety of the observers.

Replying to other question, Mr. Powell said that he was not at liberty to say anything on the recent talk of the Secretary-General with Ambassador Tekoah. He had no idea whether the Secretary-General had given the Ambassador any message for the Israeli Government and he did not know whether the Secretary-General had reminded Mr. Tekoah about the resolution on Jerusalem.

A correspondent asked how Mr. Stavropoulos could have been appointed Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs when his name had appeared on the list of candidates for the International Court of Justice. Mr. Nassif said that there was no possible conflict unless Mr. Stavropoulos was elected to the Court. Mr. Nassif was asked to check whether the Secretary-General was aware of the pending nomination at the time he gave Mr. Stavropoulos his new assignment.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

7 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI noon briefing today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General had no appointments today and that there was nothing new in the house besides the fact that he was going on vacation and that Cesar Ortiz would replace him.

A correspondent asked whether the Secretary-General had any reaction on the developments in the disarmament field in connexion with the ABM issue. Ramses Nassif said that he had no guidance on that subject.

Another correspondent, D. Jhabwala, asked whether the Secretary-General had been invited to Washington. Mr. Powell said that not as far as he knew. Other correspondents asked in what connexion the Secretary-General should have been invited. One correspondent asked whether a "yes or no answer" could be given to the original question. It was suggested that the questioner, Mr. Jhabwala, state in what connexion he had asked his question. Mr. Jhabwala remained silent. Mr. Powell said that he would check with the Secretary-General. Mr. Gabriel, another correspondent, said that the situation reminded him of the conversation between the Dormouse and the Mad Hatter. To this Mr. Nassif responded: "This is your statement, Mr. Gabriel, and not ours!"

The briefing was terminated by a correspondent who, on behalf of the rest, wished Mr. Powell a good vacation.

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8 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz-Tinoco announced that the Secretary-General had two appointments today; at 3:00 p.m., Horace King, Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom; and at 3:30 p.m., Ambassador Joao Augusto de Araujo Castro of Brazil.

Scheduled to speak in the Security Council debate today on Namibia are: Hungary, Paraguay, China and France.

Joseph Nichols (RVS) stated that there would be a production and technical meeting on Monday, 11 August, at 4:00 p.m. concerning plans for visual and audio media coverage of the visit of the United States astronauts to the United Nations next Wednesday. He added, for those interested, that visual and audio cable orders should be made this afternoon in order to prevent last minute tie-ups.

A correspondent said he hoped some arrangement would be made to facilitate coverage of the astronauts visit by the writing Press. Mr. Ortiz-Tinoco said, regarding this, that the astronauts would be placed on a dais in front of the North Terrace, and that immediately in front of the dais would be a section for the writing Press. There will be no special credential requirements for the Press that day.

The astronauts' visit has been programmed to be short and simple, comprised of a 15 minute visit, including a ceremony of 10 minutes, and introductions. The Secretary-General and one of the astronauts will make short statements.

A correspondent asked whether the Secretary-General had any reaction to new violations of the cease fire in Suez and whether he felt it was essential for the Big Four to resume their talks on the Middle East, or that Mr. Jarring should resume his visit to the area.

Another asked whether the Secretary-General continued to have contacts with Hanoi.

Ramses Nassif said he would pass these queries on for a later response.

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11 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif, replying to a question asked last Friday whether the Secretary-General was maintaining contact with Hanoi, said that there was no comment.

César Ortiz and Mr. Nassif then replied to a number of questions regarding the Middle East, particularly the evacuation of observer posts. Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had repeatedly expressed growing concern over the escalation of the fighting (replying to a question asked at a previous briefing). As to the evacuation of the posts, he said that this was only temporary.

He then said that three posts had been suspended and that with the exception of those three, all the others were functioning. He was then asked to name the three posts closed, and he said that they were Charlie, Mike, Red and Juliet. Juliet was being replaced by Orange on the other side of the Canal, he added. He was asked to clarify, and said that all observer posts on the West side had names, those on the East side, colours. One correspondent then remarked that, in fact, four had been closed.

Another correspondent, Mr. Raghavan, asked how could observers observe things on one side of the Canal from the other side. Mr. Ortiz said that military people had a way of sorting such things out and that the Canal was not very wide. Mr. Raghavan insisted on a more complete answer and Mr. Ortiz promised to supply it.

He was then asked whether General Odd Bull was continuing to attempt to ensure the safety of Observers. Mr. Ortiz said that consultations to that effect were continuing and that the Secretary-General had formulated and presented proposals. Asked what would happen next he said he did not know but would try to find out. He also promised to check since when exactly the posts mentioned above were inactive.

Had the situation caused by the proximity of Egyptian troops and firings improved, he was asked next. There was nothing to say, he stated, but on the whole he could say that the situation was calm and, according to General Bull's latest report today the situation was relatively quiet.

Asked whether this was due to voluntary action on the part of the belligerents or just chance, Mr. Ortiz said that this was hard to say but that the United Nations always tries to get both sides to abide by the cease-fire.

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12 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said the Secretary-General's appointments were with the Permanent Representative of Ireland and the Chargé d'Affaires of Libya.

On the astronauts' ceremony at Headquarters tomorrow, he said that a Note to Correspondents would be issued after the briefing today giving all the details (Note No. 3548). With the aid of a blackboard diagram, Mr. Ortiz then outlined the arrangements for the press, point of arrival and departure of the motorcade and other details.

He said that the Secretary-General, who had been invited to Mayor Lindsay's reception, would arrive in the motorcade with the astronauts, their families, the Mayor and Ambassador Yost of the United States.

The astronauts, Mr. Ortiz said, would be met by the United Nations acting Chief of Protocol and the Secretary-General would then introduce them to the President of the Security Council, Jaime de Pinies (Spain) and the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Heinrich Haymerle (Austria).

Mr. Ortiz said the text of the Secretary-General's speech at the ceremony would be issued tomorrow at 10 a.m. with an embargo. Neil Armstrong's speech in reply would be brief and impromptu, and there would be no text; however, he would arrange to have the speech recorded and played back to correspondents at about 12:45 p.m. Mr. Ortiz suggested -- and the correspondents agreed -- that tomorrow's briefing would be held at 1 p.m. rather than at noon.

Ken Kelly, OPI Accreditations Officer, said United Nations correspondents should proceed through the General Assembly building lobby to the ceremony area and should carry their passes.

Mr. Ortiz then outlined arrangements for the ceremony in case of heavy rain. The ceremony would be held inside the lobby area, he said.

In reply to a question, Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General had been invited by President Nixon to attend the dinner for the astronauts in Los Angeles tomorrow night, but had had to decline because of the time element.

In reply to another question, Mr. Nassif said the United Nations had requested the return of the card it had wished to be placed on the moon but which was not

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carried by the astronauts on their flight, and "we are still waiting". He said the Secretary-General would present a folder to the astronauts but he did not know yet what would be inside it. He would be able to inform correspondents of the contents tomorrow, before the ceremony.

Mr. Ortiz said that a sub-committee of the Special Committee on Apartheid would be going to Africa and a press release would be issued on this tomorrow or on Thursday. The group would consult with southern African liberation movements on the implementation of the anti-apartheid campaign. They would be in Lusaka on 17 August, Dar es Salaam on 20 August, Nairobi on 25 August, and later in Addis Ababa.

Replying further to a question asked yesterday concerning observation posts in the Middle East, Mr. Ortiz said that the OPs functioned as a system and "it is as a system that they should be viewed". If things broke down at one of the posts, efforts were made to reconstitute the system, he said. Asked how observers could observe things on one side of the Canal from the other, Mr. Ortiz replied that "there is no implication in this that there will be less observation here or there; the posts support each other". He was not a military expert. He said the posts closed down were OPs Charlie, Red, Juliet and Kilo.

Mr. Ortiz then drew attention to two round-up press releases -- on the Economic and Social Council and the International Law Commission.

In reply to a question, he said he did not have the departure date of the Apartheid Sub-Committee; it would be included in the forthcoming press release concerning the visit.

He did not know the speakers scheduled in the Security Council this afternoon and he did not know anything about a resolution for the Council, he said in reply to further questions.

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13 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Reviewing the visit of the Apollo 11 astronauts to United Nations Headquarters, César Ortiz said that the motorcade had arrived at the site about 11:53 a.m., and the car bringing the astronauts, the Secretary-General, Mayor Lindsay and others had parked the inner driveway at 11:55 a.m. The families of the astronauts and other guests left their cars at about the same time. When the two groups converged, the Secretary-General's daughter, son-in-law and grandson were introduced to the astronauts and their families.

At 11:57 a.m., the Secretary-General and the Acting Chief of Protocol escorted the group to the dais, where they were introduced to the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of the Outer Space Committee.

On the dais, with the astronauts and the Secretary-General, were the Mayor and Mrs. Lindsay, Ambassador Yost, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Paine of NASA, the wives and children of the astronauts and the Secretary-General's daughter, her husband and their son -- Mr. and Mrs. Tin Myint U and Ko Ko.

After the statements by the Secretary-General and Mr. Armstrong, U Thant presented the astronauts with special albums containing replicas of the United Nations postcard and stamps that had failed to get to the moon. He presented Mr. Paine and the astronauts' wives with bound copies of Everyman's United Nations, a complete handbook of the activities and evolution of the United Nations during its first twenty years. The books were inscribed: "With sincere admiration and best wishes", and signed by the Secretary-General.

Finally, Mr. Ortiz said that, on behalf of the astronauts, Mr. Armstrong presented U Thant with a plaque which is an exact replica of the one they left on the moon. The plaque is inscribed: "For the delegates to the United Nations General Assembly"; it will hang in the Secretary-General's outer office on the 38th floor.

The astronauts left the dais at 12:07 p.m., and their car departed from the United Nations at 12:10. Their visit ran 20 minutes ahead of schedule.

A correspondent asked what percentage of the total of delegates to the United Nations had been present at the ceremony. Mr. Ortiz replied that he did not know, but would check with Protocol.

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Two other correspondents wondered about the size of the crowd in attendance from among members of the Secretariat, Mr. Ortiz said he would check this too, but that all members of the Secretariat staff had been invited.

Mr. Ortiz noted that United Nations Guides were lined up in formation behind the dais, and remarked that this had created a very good impression. They stood there looking quite pretty, he said.

Asked whether there had been any incidents during the visit, Ramses Nassif replied that three or four persons had fainted, he imagined from the heat. He added that the Secretary-General had been very pleased with the motorcade and the enthusiasm of the crowds, and that the United Nations flag had flown over City Hall this morning as a gesture ordered by Mayor Lindsay.

A correspondent queried whether there was any reaction from the Secretary-General on a statement said to have been made by King Hussein, according to which the King had "given up" on a political settlement in the Middle East and declared that "this is a time for battle". Mr. Nassif said that he had not heard the statement and had no reaction to it.

No speakers were yet on the list for the Security Council debate this afternoon, Mr. Nassif said.

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14 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

The briefing began with an announcement by César Ortiz that the Secretary-General had no appointments today because of the Security Council meeting. He added that it was not yet clear whether the Council would meet over the weekend, but the Press would naturally be kept informed.

Ramses Nassif told the correspondents that C.V. Narasimhan had departed last night on a trip which would take him to several countries. The visits would be made in both of his capacities as Chef de Cabinet and as Deputy Administrator of UNDP. Mr. Narasimhan's first stop will be in Copenhagen where he will meet with Danish Government officials on UNDP matters. He will then go to Sofia on a private visit at the invitation of the Bulgarian Government. In Madras, he will give two lectures at the University of Madras, and then go to Bangkok to attend a seminar on the Mekong Development Project, and then to Tokyo for consultations with the Japanese Government. He will return to New York on 28 August.

In response to a query, Mr. Nassif said the visits to Bangkok and Tokyo would be made in Mr. Narasimhan's capacity as Chef de Cabinet. He said the Secretary-General was planning to visit Japan in April 1970, and Mr. Narasimhan would probably be making arrangements for this.

A correspondent asked when Mr. Narasimhan would be replaced as Chef de Cabinet in view of his appointment to UNDP. Mr. Nassif replied that he did not know, but Mr. Narasimhan would continue as Chef de Cabinet for some months to come.

A correspondent asked if there were any further word concerning the note delivered to the Secretary-General yesterday by the Ambassador of Ireland informing him that the Government of Ireland had asked the United Kingdom to request the urgent despatch of a United Nations peace-keeping force to northern Ireland.

Another correspondent asked whether the Secretary-General was aware of the fact that Ireland had set up several border hospitals on the northern frontier, and a third wanted to know what was the legal position on the matter.

Mr. Ortiz replied that it was not a question of a legal position but obviously a matter requiring Security Council action. He said the Secretary-General had met yesterday at 5 p.m. with the Charge d'Affaires of the United Kingdom. At the meeting

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the United Kingdom representative had been informed of the note Mr. Thant had received from the Irish Ambassador.

A series of questions on the reported border clashes in Sinkiang between the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China followed. A correspondent wanted to know whether the Secretary-General had received any official information on the subject. Mr. Nassif replied that he had not.

Then, had the Secretary-General read the Tass press release on the border fights issued by the Mission of the Soviet Union yesterday? Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had read the press release in question.

A correspondent said there was a large card in the visitors' gallery of the Security Council Chamber which read DANGER (in large letters), and that though he thought workmen were in the process of installing or repairing the lines to earphones in the gallery, he was not certain of this. He said, one visitor had asked him whether there was a bomb planted in that section of the gallery, and that he wished to check on this through Mr. Ortiz since interested people would surely be calling his paper to find out.

César Ortiz answered that he did not know, either, but he would make it a point to find out.

(It was later ascertained that new earphones are being installed in the Council Chamber and there is no question of any explosive device whatsoever.)

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15 August 1969

OPT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

César Ortiz announced that the Secretary-General has accepted an invitation to address the first session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America which will open in Mexico City on Tuesday 2 September 1969.

Accordingly, U Thant plans to leave New York for the Mexican capital on 1 September and will return to Headquarters the following day, shortly after his address. (See Press Release SG/T/252)

Mr. Ortiz added as further background for the correspondents that U Thant replied, on 8 July 1969, that he wished to express his gratitude for the invitation to attend the meeting on 2 September, and that it would be an honour and a pleasure for him to do so provided he could reconcile the dates of the meetings with his own previous commitments.

It was later decided that the Secretary-General would be in a position to attend the meeting, and on 5 August 1969 he received the provisional agenda of the session.

The Secretary-General also agreed to address the session at the opening meeting on the morning of 2 September, prior to the election of the General Committee of the General Conference.

Besides electing a Secretary-General of the Agency, the session will adopt the rules of procedure of the General Conference, the Convention on privileges and immunities and the budget of the Agency.

It will also discuss the following items:

1. Status of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
2. Report of the Government of Mexico on the Safeguard Agreement reached with the International Atomic Energy Agency on 6 September 1968.
3. Measures to be adopted in the implementation of those parts of the Treaty of Tlatelolco having to do with the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Ortiz added that Dr. Bruché had returned to the office today.

Ramnes Nassif told the correspondents of a request by the Secretary-General to include on the agenda of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session a supplementary item entitled: Agreement Between Indonesia and the Kingdom of the

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Netherlands Concerning Western New Guinea (West Irian) Act of Self-Determination.  
A report of the Secretary-General on the subject was appended to the request.

A correspondent asked where Dr. Bunche had gone, and Mr. Nassif replied, that Dr. Bunche had taken a private tour of the world, accompanied by his wife and had returned to New York last night.

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18 August 1969

O.P.I. DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz announced that the Secretary-General had met with the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillary, this morning. The meeting lasted half an hour, from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Ortiz said that he was authorized to read the following statement as coming from a United Nations Spokesman:

"The Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Ireland had a very useful exchange of views. They discussed the possibility of the United Nations contributing towards the easing of the situation in Northern Ireland. The Secretary-General looks forward to future meetings with the Irish Foreign Minister while he is in New York."

A correspondent (Darius Jhabvala, Boston Globe) asked if the Secretary-General had offered any suggestions to ease the situation in Northern Ireland. Mr. Ortiz said that he had no guidance on that matter. The correspondent also asked when the Secretary-General would have future meetings with the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know.

Several correspondents wanted to know whether the Secretary-General had the right to discuss a situation in a territory which, like Northern Ireland, was part of the United Kingdom. Mr. Ortiz said that he was restricting himself to the statement he had just read, and reminded correspondents that the Irish Mission had circulated a letter requesting a Security Council meeting.

Mr. Guillian (Reuters) asked whether a non-member of the Council could participate in procedural discussion before the Agenda had been adopted.

Mr. Ortiz said that the procedure, as far as he recalled, was that a request was made for a meeting by a Member State, the President of the Council consulted with the Members as when to hold the meeting, and then the Council met to discuss its agenda and later to grant hearings to non-members so requesting it.

Several correspondents felt that there had been precedents when non-members had participated in Council discussions prior to the adoption of the agenda. Mr. Raghavan (Press Trust of India) said he remembered an instance when India participated in such a procedural discussion.

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Mr. Ortiz drew attention to document S/9393, note by the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representatives of Israel and Lebanon regarding the establishment of United Nations Observers Posts. Mr. Ortiz said that the document spoke for itself.

A correspondent (Yaakov Revel, Israel TV) asked whether the circulation of the letter meant that the Secretary-General was satisfied with the functioning of the observer posts in the Suez area. Mr. Ortiz said that this was more of a response to a situation which had not improved. He repeated, however, that the letter was self-explanatory.

Mr. Ortiz said that so far no speakers were listed for this afternoon's meeting of the Security Council on the Lebanese complaint.

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19 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said he had no news on the Security Council. As had been announced late yesterday, the President of the Council was allowing consultations to continue on a draft resolution concerning the Lebanese complaint and did not want to fix a time for the next meeting yet. Further consultations were being held on Ireland's request for a meeting. Mr. Ortiz added that he hoped to have an announcement later today as to the time and subject of a meeting. Personally, he did not think there would be a meeting today, on either matter.

He announced the Secretary-General's appointments -- with Aloysius P. Thompson (Guyana) for presentation of credentials, and the representatives of Malaysia and Iraq. Asked whether the latter appointment concerned the new trials in Iraq, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know.

A correspondent suggested that announcements be made of appoints "not agreed to". "That will be the day," Mr. Ortiz replied.

He called attention to the new request for an item for the General Assembly's agenda, on the dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) (document A/7643). In reply to a question, he said he had not heard of any request for an item dealing with the report of UNCURK.

He said that the text of the Secretary-General's address in Mexico City on 2 September to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America would be issued under an embargo as soon as it was available next week.

Bill Oatis (Associated Press) then asked whether the Secretary-General had anything to say about the relations of mainland China with the super-Powers.

Mr. Ortiz read out the following statement, attributable to a United Nations spokesman: "The Secretary-General feels that the nature of the relationships between mainland China and the two super-Powers will be the paramount issue before the international community in some years to come." (for?)

Several questions were asked as to whether this meant that the Secretary-General felt it was not now a paramount issue but would only become one in future.

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\* An appointment with the representative of Guinea was announced subsequently.

Mr. Ortiz answered that the statement was directed towards the future. He said he would check for further clarification. He was also asked how many years were meant by "some years", and he answered that "some" could mean a few.

A correspondent asked what had prompted the Secretary-General's comment. Mr. Ortiz replied that it was in answer to Mr. Oatis' question. Several questioners then queried Mr. Oatis on the origin of the question, without obtaining a response. "Are you keeping it a secret from us?" he was asked.

(After the briefing, correspondents gathered around Mr. Oatis for further information. Asked whether the question had been planted, he said it had not been.)

Mr. Oatis also asked at the briefing whether the Secretary-General had any comment about the mood in Peking and Moscow. Mr. Ortiz said he would check.

On another matter, it was asked whether the Secretary-General would make a statement on the 21 August anniversary in Czechoslovakia. The questioner (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) remarked that several organizations were commemorating the anniversary, and he recalled the Secretary-General's statement on the matter last year. Mr. Ortiz said he would check.

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20 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz announced the Secretary-General's appointments: at 10:30 a.m. with the new Permanent Representative of Uruguay who presented his credentials, and at 1 p.m. with the Permanent Representative of the United States.

He said that the President of the Security Council was holding private consultations with members on the Irish request and the meeting would probably get under way within half an hour. On the Lebanese request, he said that consultations were apparently still continuing concerning a draft resolution on the matter.

Mr. Ortiz then recapitulated on the supplementary items that have been included on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly:

1. Document A/7641. The Secretary-General's request concerning West Irian.
2. Document A/7642. A 13-nation request concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces from South Korea. Though not a co-sponsor, Romania supported the request in a separate document, A/7642/Add.1.
3. Document A/7643. A request by 13 countries concerning the dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.
4. Document A/7644. A request by Malta on the question of the elderly and the aged.
5. Item on the development of tourism; requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution of 7 August 1969.

Mr. Ortiz was asked how many items that made on the over-all agenda and he replied that the total was 101; 96 on the original agenda, plus five supplementary items.

In reply to a question made yesterday on whether the Secretary-General would make a statement on the occasion of the anniversary of the Czechoslovakia crisis, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General was not in the habit of making anniversary statements or announcements, except for United Nations Day and Human Rights Day.

In reply to questions, he said that the Secretary-General had now received Israel's acknowledgement to his recent letter, indicating that it had been forwarded to the Israeli Government.

He also said that the Secretary-General had met with the Foreign Minister of Ireland yesterday afternoon and that this meeting had been a continuation of an earlier one.

Asked if the Secretary-General had sent a reminder to Israel with reference to his memorandum of 3 July, Mr. Ortiz said that he would check.

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21 August 1969

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz announced that the Secretary-General would travel to Ethiopia to attend the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), at the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie and of Diallo Telli, Secretary-General of the OAU, from 7 to 9 September, in Addis Ababa.

Enroute, said Mr. Ortiz, the Secretary-General would pay an official visit to Libya on 5 and 6 September. In reply to a question, he said that the visit was in response to a long-standing invitation from the Libyan Government and was not connected with the situation in the Middle East.

The Secretary-General would leave New York on 4 September and return on 10 September. In reply to a question, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General would be accompanied by Donald Thomas, personal administrative assistant; George Pogue, personal aide; and Ramses Nassif, press officer. (Press Release SG/T/253.)

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General would stop in London on the way to Africa. Mr. Ortiz said he had not yet seen the itinerary.

The Secretary-General's only appointment listed for today, he went on, was one this morning with the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Patrick J. Hillery. They had met for about 20 minutes in a continuation of their earlier talks.

Asked on what basis they had talked, inasmuch as the Security Council had adjourned without inscribing the item on the agenda, Mr. Ortiz said that, as previously stated, they were "discussing the possibility of the United Nations contributing towards the easing of the situation in Northern Ireland". Asked how they could do so, if this was a matter of domestic jurisdiction, Mr. Ortiz said he had no guidance on that point. This had been the general theme of their talks. He did not know of any further meeting scheduled.

A correspondent asked for "some clarification, as the constitutional position is unclear".

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Asked if Bernadette Devlin, Member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, was coming to the United Nations, he said he had no information. He had seen press reports that she was coming to the United States.

Asked who had initiated the meeting today between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know.

Asked when the Secretary-General would hold a press conference, inasmuch as he would be away during part of early September, Mr. Ortiz said that a press conference would be held before the General Assembly session.

In reply to a question asked previously, as to whether the Secretary-General had sent a reminder to Israel on Jerusalem, Mr. Ortiz said yes, the Secretary-General had done so orally.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

22 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had appointments with the new Permanent Representative of Mauritius, Radha Krishna Ramphul, presenting his credentials, and with the Representative of Colombia, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. Was the latter a farewell call? Mr. Ortiz said he assumed so but did not know.

In reply to questions, Mr. Ortiz said the Secretary-General had not received any requests for an international investigation of the fire in the Al Aqsa mosque. There was no news about a Security Council meeting. He understood that Muhammad H. El-Farra, the Representative of Jordan, was arriving this afternoon.

On other matters, he said, in reply to questions, that there were no indications that Bernadette Devlin, Member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, was coming to the United Nations. The itinerary for the Secretary-General's forthcoming trip to Libya and Ethiopia was not yet complete. The Secretary-General did not attach any political significance to the fact that he was visiting an Arab country, Libya, at this time. "If others do," said Mr. Ortiz, "let them." Rather, the visit was a response to a long-standing invitation from the Libyan Government.

Mr. Ortiz also said, in reply to questions, that there were no indications that the Secretary-General planned a new statement at this time on Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General was not making a statement on the situation regarding the Cuban delegates and the United States. He had been informed of the matter by Charles W. Yost, United States Representative, two days ago. Asked if the Secretary-General had taken part in "proceedings" referred to in the United States statement on the matter, he said he was not aware of it but would check. Asked if Lazaro Eddy Espinosa Bonet, of the Cuban delegation, whose expulsion had been ordered by the United States, had left the country, Mr. Ortiz said that the United Nations had not been informed. To further questions on this point, he said that this was up to the missions. Eventually, the United Nations protocol section would be informed.

Asked if the silence of the Secretary-General meant that he accepted as valid the United States charges against the Cuban delegates, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General was not accepting or rejecting anything. The matter of the Headquarters Agreement was between the United States and the mission concerned. The Secretary-General could only become involved if requested to do so by the mission, and that had not happened in this case, so far as he was aware.

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The Secretary-General had no control over missions, he said. When a correspondent remarked that "the United States apparently does", Mr. Ortiz replied no, the United States was the host country. Did only the United States have a right to interpret the Headquarters Agreement? he was asked. Mr. Ortiz said that if the correspondent wanted him to seek guidance from the Legal Department, he would do so.

Mr. Ortiz also said, in reply to questions, that there were no further clarifications regarding the Secretary-General's remarks on China.

Asked if the Secretary-General considered the reply of Lebanon to his proposals on the stationing of United Nations Observers on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon sector (S/9393) to be an acceptance, Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General preferred to wait for Israel's reply before commenting. Had anything been received from Israel on this subject or on the subject of the mosque? No, he said.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Ortiz said that he had the results of this morning's draw here for the United States Open Tennis Championships and would make them available to those interested. The Secretary-General had not attended the draw but had attended the reception afterward. Was the Secretary-General a tennis fan? No. Was his Chef de Cabinet, C.V. Narasimhan, a tennis fan? Mr. Ortiz said he believed so. Would Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General, be at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills for the Championships? Mr. Ortiz said he had not asked him.

Asked who had designed the new uniforms of the United Nations Guides, and who had chosen the designer, Mr. Ortiz said, "I didn't". He would try to find out.

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25 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, César Ortiz read out the text of a statement by the Secretary-General in which he had said that he could not help but feel that the executions carried out in Iraq this morning would "increase tension and danger in the Middle East, which already poses a grave threat to peace".

The Secretary-General had said that he had asked the acting Permanent Representative of Iraq yesterday evening to convey urgently to the Government of Iraq his "serious concern about the international repercussions that would be likely to follow the executions". While he did not question the right of the Government of Iraq to try and sentence anyone within its jurisdiction who might be charged with serious offence, he did question the contemplated action "on both humanitarian and political grounds" (see Press Release SG/SM/1146).

Asked when the Secretary-General had learned that the executions had taken place, Mr. Ortiz said he had no further information. Had the Secretary-General seen Yosef Tekoah, the Israeli representative, about the matter yesterday? Mr. Ortiz said he did not think so. Had the Secretary-General received telephone calls from the Israeli delegation about it? Mr. Ortiz said he did not know; the Secretary-General had issued this statement on his own initiative.

Mr. Ortiz was asked to check with the Secretary-General on this point. In reply, he said that it was not customary to ask the Secretary-General for a blow-by-blow account of his calls and other contacts.

? Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had been asked yesterday by the Government of Israel to use his good offices on the matter. Mr. Nassif did not know in what form this request had been made. As Mr. Ortiz had said, the Secretary-General had issued this statement on his own initiative. To further questions, Mr. Nassif said it was obvious that the Secretary-General had been in some kind of contact with the Israelis yesterday. Mr. Ortiz added that the Secretary-General had been in contact with a number of delegations yesterday, including that of Israel.

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Also on this subject, Mr. Ortiz said, in reply to a question, that the Secretary-General had taken the initiative, on hearing by radio of the impending executions, to try to reach the Iraqi delegation. He did not know what had been the reaction of the acting representative of Iraq, nor did he know of any response from the Government of Iraq to the Secretary-General's expression of concern.

On another matter, Mr. Nassif read the text of an announcement by the Secretary-General that, because of the continuing deficit situation of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), he was sending a Secretariat team of three members -- William McCaw, Brian Urquhart and Lt. Colonel L.F. Monteagle -- to Cyprus to look into the financial situation of UNFICYP, with particular attention to the possibility of reducing its cost. The team was to report, with recommendations, by 1 November (see Press Release SG/SM/1147).

Mr. Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had appointments today with the new Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Fidele Nkundabagenzi, and the new Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Slaheddine el Goulli, presenting their credentials; and with the representatives of Algeria, Somalia and Tunisia.

Asked if the latter appointments related to the executions in Iraq or to the fire in the Al Aqsa mosque, he said he did not know.

To further questions, Mr. Ortiz said that Bernadette Devlin, Member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, had an appointment to see the Secretary-General at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 26 August. She wanted to see him, as a Member of the British Parliament, but Mr. Ortiz did not know who had made the request for the appointment.

Mr. Ortiz said that the United Nations Committee on Housing, Building and Planning would hold its sixth session in New York, beginning on 2 September. A number of background notes had been issued by the Centre for Economic and Social Information. A press briefing would be held by R.J. Crooks, Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, on 29 August at a time to be announced later.

He also said that 21 specialists in pesticide production, from developing countries, who had attended a seminar on that subject at Syracuse University, had come to the United Nations today to receive their graduation certificates from a representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

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26/8/69

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

26 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said that the Security Council, as announced last night, would be meeting at 4 p.m. today on the complaints of Lebanon and Israel. A draft resolution had been circulated (S/9410), and the Council was expected to vote on it.

The Secretary-General had appointments today, he said, with Miss Bernadette Devlin, Member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland; with Cyrille Adoula, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and with the representative of Iraq.

Asked if the representative of Iraq had been called in by the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said, "Sorry, I can't answer that question". Asked if the representative of Iraq had asked for the appointment, Mr. Nassif said he could not say.

Asked if Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Middle East, would be here for the General Assembly, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Most questions at the briefing related to the remarks of Miss Devlin to correspondents after her appointment with the Secretary-General.

Miss Devlin, said one, had given "a rather loose interpretation" about what the Secretary-General had said about the situation in Northern Ireland. Had he in fact expressed any opinion about the propriety of the "B specials?" Mr. Nassif replied that he himself had been present at her meeting with the Secretary-General, who had asked her some questions and had listened to her answers but had not expressed any opinions. Mr. Nassif added that she had "explained the problem very lucidly and passionately, I thought". She had made "a rather strong case".

Had they gotten along well? Yes. Had she asked for, and had the Secretary-General offered, any donations for relief for the people of Northern Ireland? No. Had there been any talk about anything the United Nations could do? Mr. Nassif said

(more)

she had raised the matter, but the Secretary-General had explained that the United Nations could become involved in the humanitarian issue only at the request of the United Kingdom. On the general issue, he had explained that it was impossible for the United Nations to become involved because of constitutional factors.

A correspondent said Miss Devlin had stated that the Secretary-General was "horrified" at the actions of the "B specials". Had Mr. Nassif gotten the same impression? No, he said. Another correspondent noted that Miss Devlin had been asked if the Secretary-General had used the word "horrified" and had said no.

Had the Secretary-General, as she stated, expressed sympathy for the people of Northern Ireland? Mr. Nassif said he did not want to be in the position of disputing Miss Devlin's remarks. She had explained the problem and the Secretary-General had listened. Was he, then, unsympathetic, and was he "not horrified" at the actions of the "B specials"? Mr. Nassif said again that the Secretary-General had asked questions and she had answered.

Asked for the "constitutional basis" of the Secretary-General's talks with Miss Devlin without informing the United Kingdom Mission, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had seen other Members of the British Parliament at their request. Had any of them been controversial figures? Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General did not see anything unusual in this. "What about the Kennedys?" he was asked.

A correspondent then asked if the Secretary-General had planned to inform the United Kingdom Mission of the substance of his talks with Miss Devlin. Mr. Nassif said he did not think so.

No!  
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On another subject, West Irian, he was asked if certain news agency statements were correct, such as one that the Secretary-General's Representative, Fernando Ortiz-Sanz, had now left the area after agreeing to "a face-saving formula" under which the people had voted unanimously to remain with Indonesia. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was now writing his report on the act of free choice. It would be a public document. He had nothing to say until then.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

27 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had gone to Forest Hills this morning to open the United States Open Tennis Championships. He had briefly addressed the spectators and players. The text of his remarks was being issued (see Press Release SG/SM/1148).

The Secretary-General had appointments today, he said, with the representatives of Lebanon and Libya.

The Security Council would meet at 4 p.m. today on the question of "micro-States", Mr. Ortiz continued. As yet no speakers were listed, but it was expected that the United States would speak.

In reply to a question asked previously about whether Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Middle East, would be coming to United Nations Headquarters for the General Assembly session, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General hoped to make an announcement on that subject later this week. In reply to a further question, he said he was neither confirming nor denying published reports that Mr. Jarring would be here during the Assembly session.

Mr. Ortiz announced that Robert J. Crooks, Director of the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, would hold a press briefing at 11 a.m. tomorrow, 28 August, regarding the session of the 27-member Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, opening here on 2 September. Mr. Crooks would also answer questions on over-all United Nations activities in the field of housing.

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28 August 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had appointments with the new Permanent Representative of Poland, Eugeniusz Kulaga, who was presenting his credentials, and with the representatives of Israel, the United States, Ceylon and Cyprus. The Secretary-General also had an appointment with Sigvard Eklund, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on his talk this morning with the representative of Israel, Cesar Ortiz said he would check.

A correspondent said that the representative of Israel, Yosef Tekoah, had told the Press after the talk that, on instructions from his Government, he had appealed to the Secretary-General to take further action and to use his good offices "to put an end to the wave of terror against Jews in Arab States and to bring about their departure from those countries where they find themselves in danger".

Had the Secretary-General agreed to use his good offices? the correspondent asked. Mr. Ortiz said he would check. (Later, the correspondent said that Mr. Tekoah had mentioned Egypt, Syria and Iraq specifically, but had disassociated Lebanon from what he was saying.)

Asked if the United States appointment related to "micro-States", Ramses Nassif said he had no idea.

Mr. Ortiz added that no speakers were listed so far for the Security Council meeting tomorrow morning, 29 August, on "micro-States". Nor, he said in reply to a question, had there been any request for a Council meeting on the Al Aqsa mosque fire.

On other matters, Mr. Nassif said, in reply to a question, that the Introduction to the Secretary-General's Annual Report would be available in mid-September. Would it be out before or after the Secretary-General's press conference? Mr. Nassif said he did not know.

Asked for comment on a message reported to have been sent to the Secretary-

(more)

General by a Buddhist organization in Ceylon, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had not seen such a message. Was there a United Nations Information Centre in Colombo? Yes. Had it been asked to find out whether this was "a real organization"? Mr. Nassif said that the question did not arise because the reported message "has not come to our attention at all".

Mr. Ortiz said that the text of the statement to be made by the Secretary-General on Tuesday, 2 September, at the opening of the first session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, would be issued here at 3 p.m. tomorrow, embargoed for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, 2 September, New York time.

Subsequently, Mr. Ortiz announced over the loudspeaker: "In response to queries regarding Ambassador Tekoah's meeting with the Secretary-General, there is nothing to be said about the substance of the conversation, in line with established policy."

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

29 August 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said the Secretary-General's appointments included opening the session this morning of the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee and meetings with Ambassador Tomeh (Syria), Mr. Auturo H. Illia, former President of Argentina, Miss Angie E. Brooks (Liberia), Ambassador Malik (USSR) and Ambassador Vinci (Italy).

He also recalled that the text of the address the Secretary-General will deliver in Mexico City will be available in English, French and Spanish at 3:00 this afternoon, embargoes for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, 2 September. Also available today is a press release on the Secretary-General's Budget Report for 1970.

An UNCA official (Mr. Estabrook, Washington Post) announced that Mr. Illia would meet with correspondents at the UNCA Club at 3:30 p.m. today.

There was not very much else to report, Mr. Ortiz said, unless the correspondents were interested in knowing the names of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

A correspondent asked Ramses Nassif if a cable reportedly sent to the Secretary-General by a Buddhist organization in Ceylon had arrived. Mr. Nassif replied that no such cable had arrived.

Mr. Nassif was asked whether there was any word on a request by Moslem nations for a Security Council meeting on the Al Aqsa Mosque fire, and he responded that no letter had been received as yet.

Mr. Ortiz said another letter received from Cuba on the expulsion of two Cuban diplomats by the United States was now being translated and would be available later today.

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2 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General was now in Mexico City to address the first session today of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (see Press Release SG/T/252). The Secretary-General had left New York yesterday around noon and would return at 8 p.m. today.

Mr. Nassif drew attention to the statement issued yesterday regarding the Secretary-General's concern for the prompt release of the remaining passengers of the hijacked TWA airliner (see Note No. 3551).

The Secretary-General, he said, had decided to postpone his forthcoming visit to Libya in view of the recent developments there. The Secretary-General still planned to leave New York on Friday morning, 5 September, to attend the Organization of African Unity summit meeting in Addis Ababa, he said.

In reply to questions, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had planned to pay an official visit to Libya on 5 and 6 September. Otherwise, the plans were not changed. The Secretary-General would return to New York on 10 September, as scheduled.

Asked if there were indications of any real interest on the part of the airline pilots in United Nations action on the hijacking, Mr. Ortiz said yes, a cable had been received from the President of the International Federation of Airline Pilots. Mr. Nassif added that, although he had not seen the cable, he understood that it outlined the plans of the airline pilots and requested a meeting with the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General had not seen it, as it had arrived late last night. The Secretary-General would return tonight from Mexico City and would study it tomorrow and respond. Did the cable specify any date for a meeting with the Secretary-General? Mr. Nassif said he did not know.

Asked if the Secretary-General was using his good offices to bring about the release of the two remaining Israelis held by Syria after the hijacking, Mr. Nassif said he would have to check. Asked if the Secretary-General had been in touch with representatives of Syria since the hijacking, he said he would also have to check on that point.

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In reply to further questions, Mr. Ortiz said he did not believe any communication had been received by the Secretary-General regarding Syria's intentions as to the two Israelis, nor was he aware of any communication from United Nations representatives in Damascus.

In reply to a question asked previously, Mr. Ortiz said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to the Middle East, planned to arrive in New York on 16 September for consultations. Asked if Mr. Jarring would remain here indefinitely, he said that Mr. Jarring, who was now in Moscow, would remain "as long as he deems necessary".

Asked if the Secretary-General was still optimistic about the Big Four talks on the Middle East, Mr. Nassif said he would check. Asked if Mr. Jarring's role would remain the same, Mr. Ortiz said, "of course".

On other matters, Mr. Ortiz said, in reply to questions, that consultations were continuing on a date for the Security Council meeting on the Al Aqsa mosque fire. No meeting was anticipated today.

Mr. Nassif said, in reply to questions, that the Secretary-General would hold his press conference on Monday, 15 September. The introduction to his annual report would be out around the middle of the month, but Mr. Nassif did not know if it would be before the press conference or not. Asked if there was any way to get it before, he said he would check.

Work was progressing on the annotated agenda for the General Assembly, Mr. Ortiz said. C.A. Stavropoulos, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, would hold a briefing for correspondents on the work of the session. Perhaps it could be scheduled for next week. Correspondents indicated that they would prefer to have it scheduled after the annotated agenda came out.

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3 September 1969

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had returned last night from Mexico City after addressing the first session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. The Secretary-General had had "a very pleasant and successful trip" and was back at his desk today.

The Secretary-General had appointments today, said Mr. Ortiz, with the new Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia, Lazar Mojsov, who was presenting his credentials; and with the representatives of Libya and India. Had the representative of Libya asked for this appointment? a correspondent asked. Mr. Ortiz said he did not know. Was the representative of Libya leaving? He said he would check.

Ramzes Nassif said that the Secretary-General had now seen the cable received late Monday, 1 September, from the International Federation of Airline Pilots, relating to the hijacking of the TWA airliner, and had it "under active consideration". Mr. Nassif said that correspondents would be informed in due course of whatever action the Secretary-General decided to take. In reply to further questions, Mr. Nassif said he did not know whether the decision would be made known today or not. Would the text of the cable be issued? It might, he said.

Asked if the Secretary-General was in touch with the International Civil Aviation Organization or with the International Air Transport Association regarding the matter, Mr. Ortiz said he would check. Was the Secretary-General in touch with the Syrian delegation regarding the release of the two remaining Israelis? Mr. Ortiz said he did not think he could say anything further than the two statements issued by the Secretary-General (Notes Nos. 3550 and 3551). The Secretary-General continued to be "very concerned", he said.

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Asked if the Secretary-General continued to be concerned about the executions in Iraq, Mr. Ortiz said he would ask. Was the Secretary-General still optimistic regarding the Four-Power talks on the Middle East? Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Mr. Ortiz said there was no information yet about a Security Council meeting on the Al Aqsa mosque fire. A meeting today seemed unlikely.

C.A. Stavropoulos, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, would hold a background briefing for correspondents on the work of the forthcoming Assembly session at noon on Thursday, 11 September, he said. He hoped that the annotated agenda would be available by that time. Every effort would be made to that end.

Mr. Ortiz then said that a United Nations technical assistance expert, Daniel Climenhaga, of Canada, a population programme officer, had been killed in Nairobi on the night of 29/30 August when he was struck by an auto while crossing a street. Mr. Climenhaga had been here recently to attend a seminar.

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4 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had received the following cable this morning from the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA):

"We thank you for your cable to IFALPA President, Captain (Olaf) Forsberg, and your expressed concern regarding the hijacking. Two IFALPA senior representatives will be honoured to meet you, as suggested, at the Palace of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, at 1600 hours Saturday, 6 September".

[The Secretary-General had suggested this time in his cable yesterday in reply to an earlier cable from IFALPA proposing the meeting. The exchange of cables is contained in document S/9428.7]

Asked if there were any other related developments, such as contacts between the Secretary-General and the Syrian Government, Mr. Ortiz said yes, the Secretary-General had been in contact, on his own initiative, with the Syrian Government regarding the two detained Israelis. Had there been any later contacts on the matter? Ramses Nassif said there was nothing to add to Mr. Ortiz's reply on this point.

What was the Secretary-General's thinking about the plans of the airline pilots for a Security Council meeting, a one-day strike, and so on? a correspondent asked. Mr. Ortiz said, "He hasn't told us, and I don't think he will say anything before his meeting with the pilots".

Had the Secretary-General been aware, before replying to the airline pilots, that the Secretary-General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) was opposed to the pilots' move? he was asked. Both Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Nassif said they would check this point. Would the IATA message also be circulated? Mr. Ortiz said that no IATA message had been received here.

Asked why the Secretary-General had taken "the unusual step" of circulating a message from a private organization as a Security Council document, Mr. Ortiz said that it had been circulated for the information of Council members. This was not unusual. The cable from the pilots, he noted, had mentioned the Security Council. Asked for other examples of the circulation of such messages, Mr. Ortiz said he could not recall any at the moment.

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Had the International Civil Aviation Organization also been drawn in on the matter? a correspondent asked. Both Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Nassif said they would check.

In reply to a further question, Mr. Ortiz said that there was nothing new regarding the Security Council meeting on the Al Aqsa mosque fire. Would the Council meet during the absence of the Secretary-General? Mr. Ortiz said he did not know.

Regarding the Secretary-General's trip, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General planned to leave New York at 9:40 a.m. tomorrow, 5 September, enroute to Addis Ababa where he would attend and address the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

He would go first to Paris, where he would spend the night at the airport hotel, and the next morning, 6 September, he would go on to Geneva, where he would spend most of that day, Mr. Nassif said. He would leave Geneva in the evening for Addis Ababa, via Rome.

Asked whether the Secretary-General would see Gunnar Jarring, his Special Representative to the Middle East, in Geneva, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know. To further questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was spending the night in Paris only because of more convenient flight schedules. There were no plans for him to meet anyone there or in Rome.

The Secretary-General's only appointment today, said Mr. Ortiz, was with the representative of Greece. Asked if the representative of Libya, at his meeting yesterday with the Secretary-General, had renewed the invitation for a visit there, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know. He suggested that the correspondent ask the delegation of Libya.

A Number of questions at the briefing related to the death of Ho Chi Minh, President of North Viet-Nam.

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Was the Secretary-General planning to send a message of condolences? No, said Mr. Nassif, he did not plan to. Had he ever met Ho? Yes, in 1954 in Hanoi, when U Thant accompanied the then Prime Minister of Burma on an official visit there. Since then, said Mr. Nassif, the Secretary-General had maintained contact with President Ho from time to time in his personal capacity. Would he send personal condolences? Mr. Nassif said he did not plan to.

A correspondent that the rain today was presumably the reason why the flags were not up. Would the flag be lowered for Ho's death? Mr. Ortiz said that this was done for the Heads of State of Member States.

Another correspondent remarked that the Secretary-General had sent condolences on the death of Robert Kennedy. Why not Ho, "a Head of State, well known to the Secretary-General and to the world"?

Mr. Nassif said he was afraid he could not answer that question. He had asked the Secretary-General who, he was sure, had given a great deal of thought to the matter. The Secretary-General was not planning to send a message. Did he not have any personal feelings to express? Mr. Nassif said he was not saying that.

A request was made for the Secretary-General's reactions to the death of Ho.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been in touch with the delegates of North Viet-Nam to the Paris peace talks since the death of Ho, Mr. Nassif said he did not believe so.

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5 September 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, César Ortiz said that the Secretary-General had left New York at 10:12 a.m. today enroute to Addis Ababa where he would attend and address the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The text of the Secretary-General's address would be available here at 1:30 p.m. today, embargoed for 4 a.m. Sunday, 7 September.

There was nothing new regarding a Security Council meeting, he said.

Mr. Ortiz drew attention to a background release on the forthcoming session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, opening here on Monday, 8 September (Press Release OS/337).

He also drew attention to a CESI background note (No. 122) on a UNIDO symposium on the problems and prospects of chemical industries in the developing countries, opening here on Monday.

Following a morning meeting at the Plaza Hotel, in conjunction with the proceedings of the meeting of the American Chemical Society, the symposium would come to the United Nations where a panel discussion, open to the press, would be held in Conference Room 1 at 2:30 p.m. A press briefing by UNIDO officials and some of the participants would be held at 4 p.m. in Room 226.

In reply to questions, Mr. Ortiz said he did not have any further information regarding contacts between the Secretary-General and the Syrian Government regarding the release of the two remaining Israelis on the hijacked TWA airliner. The contacts were continuing, however.

The Secretary-General, he noted, was meeting in Geneva at 4 p.m. tomorrow, local time, with representatives of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations. Any information released after their meeting would be transmitted here by cable or telephone and would be made available here. Undoubtedly the Geneva correspondents would get it sooner, he said in reply to a question.

In reply to other questions, Mr. Ortiz said there was no comment from the Secretary-General on the death of Ho Chi Minh, President of North Viet-Nam. He had no information as to whether General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, was coming here for the General Assembly session.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

9 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz said that Pakistan was the only speaker listed so far for this afternoon's Security Council meeting on the Al Aqsa mosque fire. No requests from non-members to participate had been received, and he had no information regarding a draft resolution on this question.

Speakers listed for the general debate this afternoon in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were the representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States, he said.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to return to New York about 4 p.m. tomorrow, 10 September, from Zurich on his way back from Addis Ababa, where he had attended and addressed the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Ortiz said. Remarks made by the Secretary-General on his departure from Addis Ababa would be issued shortly as a press release (SG/T/259). The Secretary-General had dealt mainly with African matters.

A correspondent referred to reports that the African States were trying to bring about a cease-fire in Nigeria, and asked if the Secretary-General had had any influence on that point. Mr. Ortiz said he did not know. However, the Secretary-General, in his remarks on departing from Addis Ababa, had said he was more optimistic than ever before about the prospects of a just and peaceful solution of the conflict in Nigeria "because of the genuine desire on the part of the heads of the delegations to contribute substantially" towards such a solution.

Another correspondent remarked that U Nu, former Prime Minister of Burma, was coming to the United States to raise funds to, in U Nu's words, "overthrow the fascist Government of Burma". Would U Thant, "as one of U Nu's older friends", be seeing him, and when? Mr. Ortiz said that it was his understanding that if U Thant saw U Nu it would be at the latter's request and, in any event, as an old friend and associate. Mr. Ortiz suggested that correspondents wait until the Secretary-General's return.

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In reply to questions, Mr. Ortiz said there was no information regarding the latest Middle East incident, involving Israel and the United Arab Republic. No letters had been received, and the United Nations had no direct reports as it had no observers in the area where the incident had taken place. He had no information as to whether the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations had informed the Secretary-General of their decision to go ahead with their plan for a one-day strike in protest against the recent hijacking of a TWA airliners to Syria, nor did he have any information about a response from Syria.

Asked about new items for the agenda of the General Assembly, Mr. Ortiz said that the only new one received was the one on Chinese representation, received late yesterday.

On other matters, he said that an agreement had been signed this morning between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the establishment of an Asian Statistical Institute, to be located in Tokyo (DEV/400-ECAFE/585).

Mr. Ortiz then said that Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General, had seen the Rev. Ian Paisley, of Northern Ireland, this morning, at Rev. Paisley's request. The basis on which Mr. Bunche had agreed to the meeting was that he would see Rev. Paisley, in the absence of the Secretary-General, as a courtesy, but would not enter into a discussion of the situation in Northern Ireland. He would only listen to what he had to say and would report to the Secretary-General.

Asked whom Rev. Paisley represented, Mr. Ortiz said he did not know.

A correspondent remarked that the Secretary-General, in his meeting with Miss Bernadette Devlin, Member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, had talked as well as listened. Mr. Ortiz said he did not know; he had not been there.

Why had Mr. Bunche seen Rev. Paisley? Was it because he was in charge of peace-keeping operations or did he "take care of all Protestants"? No, said Mr. Ortiz.

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10 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said he was happy to announce that as of tomorrow there would be "a new spokesman, Mr. William Powell, who has come to us from Ireland", and whose briefings would surely be "much more interesting and spicy". (Murmurs of skepticism rippled through the room at this point. Mr. Powell attended today's briefing unannounced.)

Mr. Ortiz announced that the annotated draft agenda for the General Assembly was now available (Press Release GA/4040) and that the Introduction to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on the work of the Organization would be issued on 16 September. He did not know whether it would be embargoed.

He announced also that Michael Stewart, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, would hold a press conference at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 23 September, in Conference Room 4, and the daily United Kingdom and United States briefings would resume on 15 September, at 12:15 and 12:30 p.m., respectively. The President of the General Assembly would hold a press conference on Tuesday, 16 September, immediately after the adjournment of the opening plenary meeting, expected at about 5 or 5:30 p.m. The Secretary-General's press conference was still set for 10:30 a.m. on Monday, 15 September, in Conference Room 4.

He confirmed that the correct title for the prospective President was Miss Angie Brooks. In response to a question, he said the President's Press Officer would be Michel Tombelaine, a French national, who was recently Press Officer for the Economic Commission for Africa. Mr. Ortiz agreed that it would be a good idea for Mr. Tombelaine to meet with the press corps.

He said that Algeria and India were so far listed to speak in this afternoon's meeting of the Security Council, and that there was no sign of a draft resolution. There had been no official word from Israel or the United Arab Republic with regard to yesterday's fighting on the Gulf of Suez.

The Secretary-General would arrive in New York at 1550 today by Swissair from Zurich, and did not intend to make a statement at the airport, said Mr. Ortiz. He would come to Headquarters from the airport.

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11 September 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

After welcoming back Ramses Nassif, William Powell gave the Secretary-General's appointments - the representative of Syria and Canada; Oliver H. Jackman of Barbados (presentation of credentials); Knut Hammaraskjold, Director-General of the International Air Transport Association, and Carl Schurmann, former Netherlands Ambassador to the United States. (It was later announced that the representative of Ghana had been added to the list.)

In response to a query as to whether both the appointments with Mr. Jouejati of Syria and with Mr. Hammaraskjold were concerned with the plane hijacking, Mr. Powell said that he was not aware of the nature of the appointment with the Syrian Chargé, but it could be assumed that the hijacking would be the subject of the meeting with Mr. Hammaraskjold.

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General would address the Secretariat as part of the annual Staff Day, tomorrow afternoon at about 3 P.M. The text would be available in English and French as a press release at about 1 P.M. Because of the arrangements for Staff Day, the building would be closed to guided tours from 2:30 PM onwards.

At the Dag Hammaraskjold Memorial Scholarship Luncheon tomorrow, the Secretary-General would speak from a prepared text which would be distributed at the West Terrace immediately following the conclusion of the luncheon as well as in the Third Floor Press area.

Replying to a question regarding the Security Council resolution of 3 July (on Jerusalem), Mr. Powell said that there had not yet been a reply from Israel. Asked how many times the Secretary-General had reminded the Israeli representative, he said that he would have to check.

The remainder of the briefing was concerned with the Secretary-General's views on the Nigerian conflict.

In reply to questions regarding U Thant's statement on Nigeria, Ramses Nassif reiterated the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his statement at the airport before leaving Addis Ababa. Asked about the basis for the Secretary-General's optimism about peace prospects in Nigeria, he said this

attitude was based on talks with several heads of delegations attending the Conference of the Organization of African Unity.

On a question as to the Secretary-General's opinion on the request by Ireland for an item on the Assembly agenda, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

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12 September 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell gave the Secretary-General's appointments — Ambassador José Alvarado Garrido, Peru's representative to OAS, in Washington; Abraham Tamir, Staff Committee chairman; representatives of USSR, Ghana and Togo; and Eustace Braithwaite, Ambassador of Guyana to Venezuela.

He said that the text of the Secretary-General's speech at the UNCA Memorial Scholarship luncheon today would be available immediately after the lunch.

There would be a half-hour embargo on news from the time the luncheon -- and the speech -- ended. No questions would be answered at the lunch\*.

Some correspondents wanted to know "why no questions." The reply was that this was a luncheon, not a press conference.

Asked if the Secretary-General's speech would be carried on the six-point system, Mr. Powell said it would not, to his knowledge.

In response to a correspondent's question as to whether the Secretary-General had yet seen U Nu (former Prime Minister of Burma), Ramses Nassif said he had not, but would do so socially, as an old friend.

Referring to S/7930 Add.341, the report of General Odd Bull of 11 September, on military activity in the Suez area, Mr. Powell said the name of the United Nations observer who had been superficially injured when a bomb landed near the entrance to his shelter at O.P. Green was Capt. Patrick Leo Hughes, of Ireland.

Mr. Powell said he was unaware of Hughes's present whereabouts.

\* The text of the Secretary-General's speech to the staff would also be issued with the other text.

16 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the OPI press briefing today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General's appointments for the day were as follows:

- 10.15: Ambassador Mohamed Hassan Al-Zayyat of United Arab Republic (presentation of credentials);
- 10.30: Kiichi Aichi, Foreign Minister of Japan;
- 12.30: Mr. Santamaria, President of Alliance for Progress;
- 3.00: Alberto Fuentes Mohr, Foreign Minister of Guatemala;
- 5.30: Abdul Monen Rifai, Foreign Minister of Jordan; and
- 6.30: Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mitchell Sharp.

United States Secretary of State, William Rogers, was to see the Secretary-General at 11.30 a.m. This appointment, he stated, had been cancelled because Mr. Rogers had had a family tragedy, and the Secretary-General was instead seeing Ambassador Jarring at that time.

Continuing, Mr. Powell said work was proceeding on the Introduction to the Secretary-General's Annual Report, and it would most probably be available Thursday morning, embargoed for release on Friday at 4 p.m.

Reminding correspondents of the press conferences and briefings scheduled for today and tomorrow, Mr. Powell said there would be a press conference by the United States Mission, at 2 p.m. today in Conference Room 4, to introduce members of the United States delegations to the General Assembly. There would be another press conference by the President of the General Assembly, Miss Brooks, at approximately 5.30 p.m. The exact time would depend on the length of the plenary of the General Assembly, he pointed out. However it was scheduled to begin half an hour after the adjournment of the plenary.

Starting today, he went on to say, there would be a United Kingdom briefing at 12.15 p.m. and a United States briefing at 12.30 p.m. every week-day after the OPI briefing. Finally, he announced that the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Alberto Fuentes Mohr, would hold a press conference in Room 226 at 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, 17 September.

(more)

There would be, on Wednesday 17 September, at 10.15 a.m. a wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the eighth anniversary of the death of Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1953 to 1961, in the public lobby outside the Meditation Room. The wreath would be laid by the Secretary-General. There would be no speeches or statements. As was customary, the press was invited.

In answer to question from correspondents, Mr. Powell said the programme of the visit of United States President Nixon to the United Nations on Thursday was being worked out, and he might be able to provide some information on this matter at Wednesday's OPI briefing.

Resuming his introductory statement, he said OPI had just put out a new publication which would give a periodic review of United Nations activities in the field of apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism. The publication was entitled "Objective -- Justice", and the issue which had just been published dealt with United Nations activities in these fields in southern Africa.

A correspondent asked whether President Nixon would speak in the General Assembly as Head of State. Mr. Powell said it was his understanding that this was the case but that there would not be another United States speech in the general debate.

In answer to other questions, he said Brazil was still listed as the first speaker on Thursday, to be followed by the United States. The Soviet Union had been tentatively listed to speak on Friday. But the list of speakers in the general debate in the plenary was so tentative that he would hesitate to give it out at this stage.

A correspondent asked whether it was correct that the Secretary-General had suggested, at his press conference yesterday, that ICAO was considering some punitive measures in connexion with the recent hijacking of the TWA plane to Syria. Ramses Nassif said he would check up.

In answer to questions, Mr. Powell said he would check up whether or not the Secretary-General would address a dinner at the Plaza next Wednesday in honour of ILO Director-General David Morse. He and Mr. Nassif would be available in the United Nations Building on Saturday night to brief correspondents on the Secretary-General's dinner to the Foreign Ministers of the four Powers. The dinner would be at United Nations Headquarters, in the Secretary-General's suite.

(more)

A correspondent asked whether the United Nations or the United States would provide protection for members of Permanent Missions to the United Nations, other than those mentioned in a speech the other day in the Security Council. Mr. Powell said he had nothing to add to the Security Council statement. Another correspondent asked whether in view of incidents in other cities there was any intention to offer special protection to the Permanent Mission of Israel. Yet another correspondent asked whether the Israeli Permanent Mission had requested protection, or had complained of any threats against its members. Mr. Powell said he did not have the answer to these questions, but would be glad to check up.

Mr. Nassif was asked whether the Secretary-General had any comment to make on President Nixon's announcement on the withdrawals of United States troops from Viet Nam. Mr. Nassif said he would check up.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

17 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell reminded correspondents of two press conferences scheduled for today: one will be given by the Foreign Minister of Guatemala at 2:30 p.m. in the regular briefing room and the second will be given at 3:15 p.m. in conference room 4 by the President of the Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks.

Mr. Powell also said that the introduction to the Secretary-General's Annual Report will be available at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow with an embargo for 4:00 p.m. Friday.

The Secretary-General's appointments today are as follows:

- 10:15 a.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony
- 11:30 a.m. Abdul Monem Rifai, Foreign Minister of Jordan
- 12:30 p.m. Mr. Eugene Carson Blake, Secretary-General of the World Council of Churches
- 1:00 p.m. Mr. Vladimir M. Koretsky, (USSR) Vice-President of the International Court of Justice
- 3:00 p.m. Ambassador Ahmed Osman, Moroccan Ambassador to the United States and Mr. Mahjoubi
- 3:30 p.m. Mr. Ahti Karjalainen, Foreign Minister of Finland
- 5:00 p.m. Mr. Carlos P. Romulo, Secretary of State of the Philippines
- 5:30 p.m. Mr. Stefan Jedrychowski, Foreign Minister of Poland
- 6:00 p.m. Ambassador Michel Njine, of the Cameroons

It was also announced that the Secretary-General would attend and speak extemporaneously at a dinner given in honour of Mr. David Morse, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, at the Plaza Hotel this evening.

The appointments of Miss Brooks, President of the General Assembly for today are as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Dr. Patrick Hillary (Ireland), Minister for External Affairs
- 10:15 a.m. Mr. Corneliu Manescu (Romania), Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 4:00 p.m. General Committee of the Assembly

On Friday morning representatives of those nations scheduled to speak in the General Assembly are as follows: the Foreign Ministers of Japan, Greece, USSR (tentatively) and Finland. The list of speakers for the afternoon is comprised of Sweden, Peru, New Zealand, and Israel (tentatively).

(more)

Those countries scheduled to speak in the General Assembly tomorrow are Brazil and the United States. President Richard M. Nixon will address the Assembly for the United States. No plenary meeting of the Assembly is planned for tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Powell continued by outlining in detail arrangements for President Nixon's visit to United Nations Headquarters. He said the President and his party will arrive in a 10 car caravan at approximately 11:15 tomorrow morning and will be greeted outside the delegate's entrance by United Nations Chief of Protocol, Sinan Korle and Ambassador Yost of the United States. Mr. Nixon will then come inside where he will be met by the Secretary-General and ranking American officials of the Secretariat, Messrs. Bunche, Hoffman, Labouisse and Vaughn.

President Nixon will go directly to an anteroom in the Assembly chamber, and Mrs. Nixon and the remainder of the Presidential Party will enter the Assembly Hall and take seats in the Chamber to the right of the podium.

Continuing his discussion of Mr. Nixon's visit, Mr. Powell said, the President's speech would begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. and last until 12:05 - 12:10. No advanced text has been released thus far. After his speech to the Assembly, the President will confer with Miss Brooks for about ten minutes and then with the Secretary-General for from ten to twenty minutes in their offices behind the podium. At his meeting with U Thant, the President will probably be joined by certain members of his official party, perhaps by Mr. Rogers. During these meetings Mrs. Nixon and the rest of the Presidential party will go to the West Foyer for coffee. The President and Mrs. Nixon will be escorted from the building by the Secretary-General at the conclusion of the Presidential visit.

Mr. Powell told the correspondents that tomorrow will be necessary for them to choose between tickets for watching the arrival at the delegation entrance or for entry into the press gallery of Assembly Chamber. Admission to the Press Gallery will be specifically by tickets which will be available in Kenneth Kelley's office on the usual basis, one-half hour before meeting time.

Mr. Powell added that he was trying to arrange for closed circuit television coverage of the Assembly's proceedings to benefit those correspondents who cannot be accommodated in the Assembly Hall. Closed circuit television coverage will be available for the Secretariat staff tomorrow in conference room four.

(more)

Asked if there were any chance President Nixon would make a statement to the press while coming to and going from United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Powell replied that he was not the person to whom the question should be addressed. He added that he did not know exactly who would attend the coffee gathering in the South Foyer except for members of Mr. Nixon's party. The affair will not be open to the press.

The Presidential party will not tour the United Nations building.

Queried concerning the appointments today of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, Mr. Powell said that no information on this would be released in line with established practice.

In answer to another question, Mr. Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General had no further comment on United States troop withdrawals from Viet-Nam beyond the statement made at his press conference Monday.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

18 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell began the briefing with details of President Richard M. Nixon's visit to United Nations Headquarters. He said Mr. Nixon had arrived 3 to 4 minutes early and was greeted at the door by the Secretary-General, the United Nations Chief of Protocol and by Ambassador Yost of the United States. Once inside, the President was met by the five ranking American officials of the Secretariat. The five officials were Messrs. Bunche, Hoffman, Labouisse and Vaughn, who were mentioned yesterday, and also Laurence Michelmore, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Prior to his speech, Mr. Nixon met with U Thant and Miss Angle Brooks for 12 minutes in an office behind the podium. The President was accompanied by Messrs. Rogers, Kissinger and Yost, at his meetings with the Secretary-General, and again after his address at his meeting with Miss Angle Brooks.

Mr. Powell said that Miss Brooks and President Nixon had discussed the situation in the Middle East, problems of Africa and economic development. Miss Brooks congratulated the President on recent United States achievements in space, but said she wished that further efforts could be made to resolve problems elsewhere, particularly in Africa, citing the situations in Rhodesia and Namibia and the question of apartheid in South Africa.

Miss Brooks told President Nixon that she was delighted that the big Powers were getting together in seeking a solution to the Middle East problem.

Concerning economic development, Miss Brooks told the President that the United States was "the hope of the world," and that developing nations looked to the United States for leadership.

Continuing, Mr. Powell said President Nixon and the Secretary-General were together in a second meeting for about 30 minutes. Messrs. Rogers, Kissinger and Ambassador Yost were also at that meeting with Mr. Bunche attending on the United Nations side. Two topics were discussed: privileges and immunities and the question of Viet-Nam. The meeting took place in U Thant's office behind the podium in the General Assembly Chamber.

(more)

President Nixon left U.N. Headquarters about 12:40 p.m.

One correspondent asked whether U Thant and President Nixon had included the Middle East in their discussions, and Mr. Powell replied in the negative. In answer to a second similar question, he also said he had no information concerning who had initiated the two subjects which were discussed.

Mr. Powell stated again that on Friday morning representatives of those nations scheduled to speak in the General Assembly are: the Foreign Ministers of Japan, Greece, the Soviet Union and Finland. The list of speakers for the afternoon is comprised of the Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Peru, New Zealand and Israel (tentatively).

Ramzes Nassif was questioned concerning the precise nature of the discussions by the Secretary-General and President Nixon on Viet-Nam. He said he knew that Viet-Nam had been discussed, and that was about all.

Scheduled to speak in the Assembly on Monday morning are representatives of Uruguay, Jordan, the United Kingdom and Australia. The speakers in the afternoon will be the representatives of the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, with Yemen, Sudan and Laos scheduled tentatively.

A correspondent asked whether the Assembly would take up the question of international aircraft hijacking. Mr. Powell said that, to his knowledge, no such item had been proposed for the agenda. Asked if the hijacking question could arise under an existing agenda item, such as under the law of treaties, Mr. Powell replied that he would have to seek guidance on the matter, but did not recall any item presently on the agenda which touched on the question of hijacking.

Mr. Powell concluded by saying that, for lack of time, he would not read the lists of appointments of the Secretary-General and of the President of the General Assembly; but that the information was posted in the third floor press area.

The Secretary-General's appointments today are as follows:

10:15 a.m. -- Gahendra Bahadur Rajbhandari, Foreign Minister of Nepal

11:10 a.m. -- Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America

12:45 p.m. -- Michael Stewart, Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom

4:00 p.m. -- Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius

? 5:00 p.m. -- Ambassador Shahi (Pakistan) Chairman of the First Committee

5:30 p.m. -- Mahmoud Riad, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic

(more)

The appointments today of the President of the General Assembly are:

- 1:15 p.m. -- Luncheon given at the United Nations by Abba Eban (Israel)
- 2:45 p.m. -- Vladimir M. Koretsky, International Court of Justice
- 6:30 p.m. -- Reception by Michael Stewart (United Kingdom) followed  
by a reception at Hotel Waldorf Astoria by President Nixon  
(United States)

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19 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that in its plenary meeting tomorrow the General Assembly will take up the report of the Assembly's General Committee.

He also announced that the Secretary-General will be entertaining the Foreign Ministers of France, United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at a dinner to be held tomorrow night in the Secretary-General's suite on the 38th floor at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the four Foreign Ministers, other invitees include the Permanent Representatives of the four powers, the four United Nations Under-Secretaries from these countries and the Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Narasimhan. The dinner will probably end between 10 and 10:30 p.m. and Mr. Powell will be on hand to assist correspondents in case any public statements are made.

A change in the introduction to Annual Report of the Secretary-General (on page 71 paragraph 206) which will delete the word "serious" in the paragraph concerning the situation in Northern Ireland has been made, and the word "serious" will not appear in the final printed version of the Annual Report, Mr. Powell said. This is to conform with the wording of the item as it appears in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General's appointments today are as follows:

10:15 H.E. The Rt. Hon. K.J. Holyoake, Prime Minister of New Zealand

12:45 H.E. Mr. Khamphan Panya (Laos)

3:00 H.E. Mr. Maurice Schumann, Foreign Minister of France

8:00 Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria given by "U.N. We Believe"

Miss Angie Brooks, President of the General Assembly, will have the following appointments today:

10:00 H.E. The Rt. Hon. K.J. Holyoake, Prime Minister of New Zealand

1:15 Lunch, St. Regis Hotel, given by Prime Minister Holyoake

6:30 Reception, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, given by H.E. Mr. Kiichi Aichi,  
Foreign Minister of Japan

6:30 Reception given by Mr. José de Magalhaes Pinto, Minister of State  
for External Affairs of Brazil

8:00 Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria given by "U.N. We Believe"

(more)

Mr. Powell said a press release will be issued today concerning a change of venue for the 1970 ECAFE meeting from Kabul, Afghanistan to Bangkok, Thailand. The change was made after consultations with the Government of Afghanistan.

Ramses Nassif said he wished to add a touch of human interest and announced that a Miss Beulah Edge -- an American from Fayetteville, Arkansas -- had bequeathed her entire estate valued at approximately \$380,000 to the United Nations. In answer to a question on how the money would be spent, he said the Secretary-General had already allocated \$50,000 of the earnings from the estate to UNITAR for a special project. Details of the announcement are contained in press release SG/1738.

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22 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said he presumed correspondents were aware of the statement issued after the Secretary-General's dinner for the four Foreign Ministers on Saturday night. The statement was issued in the form of a note to correspondents SG/3556.

The Secretary-General's appointments today are as follows:

10:15 a.m. H.E. Dr. Gustavo Madeiros Querejazu, Foreign Minister of Bolivia  
5:00 p.m. Mr. Maxwell Stanley, President of the Stanley Foundation  
5:30 p.m. H.E. General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, Foreign Minister of Peru  
6:00 p.m. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Kaid Barakat, Foreign Minister of Yemen

The appointments today of the President of the General Assembly are as follows:

9:45 a.m. Mr. Kiichi Aichi, Foreign Minister of Japan  
10:00 a.m. Mr. Willi Brandt, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany  
11:30 a.m. Mr. Michael Stewart, British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary  
Luncheon given by the President of Botswana, Sir Seretse M. Khama at the Inn of the Clock  
Dinner, given by Mr. Maurice Schumann, Foreign Minister of France.

Representatives of the following countries are scheduled to speak in General Assembly debate tomorrow morning: Sudan, UAR (tentatively), Lebanon, Zambia. Speakers scheduled for the afternoon are Iceland and Gabon (tentatively).

Mr. Powell advised correspondents of the availability of the Annual Report of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-1969 which was announced in document FAO/2048. Copies of the Report are available in room 1051, embargoed for 2:30 p.m. today.

Asked if the Secretary-General had expressed any reaction to the Pope's remarks concerning the positive value of international organizations having "high and noble sentiments", Mr. Powell responded that he did not know but would inquire about it. He responded similarly to a query on whether the United Nations flag would be lowered in honor of the former President of Mexico, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, who died last night.

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23 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General would have the following appointments today :

- 10:15 a.m. Mr. Gordon Freeth, Foreign Minister of Australia
- 10:45 a.m. Meeting with the Board of Trustees of UNITAR
- 5:00 p.m. Mr. Arsene A. Usher, Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast
- 5:30 p.m. Mr. Spyros Kyprianu, Foreign Minister of Cyprus
- 6:00 p.m. Mr. George F. Duckwitz, Secretary of State Federal Republic of Germany
- 6:30 p.m. Mr. J.M.A.H. Luns, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands

He added that U Thant had made a short statement at his meeting with the Board of Trustees of UNITAR, which would be issued shortly as a press release.

The President of the General Assembly has only one appointment scheduled for today with H.E. Mr. Habib Bourgiba Jr., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

The General Assembly will convene at approximately 4 p.m. after the meeting of the General Committee. The representatives of Iceland and Zambia are scheduled to speak today in the Assembly. The roster of speakers for tomorrow morning includes the representatives of Mexico, France, Yugoslavia and Tanzania. Tomorrow afternoon H.E. Sir Seretse M. Khama, Prime Minister of Botswana will address the Assembly, and he will be followed by speakers from Ghana, Liberia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Powell went on to say that he had no details on the interruption that occurred in the gallery of the Assembly this morning following the speech by the Sudanese representative. A correspondent volunteered that the incident had centered on the issue of "Freedom for Puerto Rico."

Asked if he had any new information concerning a rumored lull in the fighting in the Middle East, Mr. Powell replied that he could only refer correspondents to Adds. 352, 353 and 354, to the UNTSO Reports which described recent aerial and ground activity. The correspondent would have to draw his own conclusions.

In response to a question on whether Dr. Jarring planned to remain in New York until after the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Mr. Powell said that he was not sure and would check on this.

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24 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell gave the following list of the Secretary-General's appointments today:

- 12:30 p.m. H.E. Don Juan B. Martin, Foreign Minister of Argentina
- 3:00 p.m. H.E. Sir Seretse M. Khama, President of Botswana
- 5:00 p.m. H.E. Mr. Tran Van Lam, Foreign Minister of South Viet-Nam
- 5:30 p.m. Director of the U.S. Peace Corps, Mr. Joseph Blatchford accompanied by 60 Peace Corps Country Directors

The Address to the General Assembly, by Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, will begin at approximately 3:10 p.m. and end at about 3:40. Lady Khama will enter the Assembly building with the Prime Minister and proceed to a seat in the Assembly Chamber while the Prime Minister will go to an office behind the podium with the Secretary-General. Sir Seretse is expected to leave United Nations Headquarters by the delegates entrance at about 4:30 p.m. after receiving farewell from the Secretary-General.

Mr. Powell added that he would attend the Secretary-General's meeting with U.S. Peace Corps Director Blatchford and the 60 Corps country directors who will accompany him, in case there are any public statements to be released at about 6:00 p.m.

Miss Angie Brooks, President of the General Assembly will have the following appointments today:

- 10:00 a.m. H.E. Nawabzada Muhammad Sher Ali Khan, Minister for Information and National Affairs of Pakistan
- 10:15 a.m. The Hon. Gordon Freeth, Minister for External Affairs for Australia
- 1:15 p.m. Luncheon given by the Minister for External Affairs of Australia at 1 Beekman Place N.Y.C.
- 6:00 p.m. Reception, given by H.E. Mr. Rudolph Grimes, Secretary of State of Liberia

In the Assembly's debate tomorrow morning representatives of Mauritius, Argentina, Belgium and Austria will speak. Tomorrow afternoon, speakers from Bolivia and Burma (tentatively) are scheduled. Following the address by the President of Botswana this afternoon, the representatives of Liberia, and Trinidad and Tobago will speak, then the Assembly will take up the report of the General Committee.

(more)

One correspondent wanted to verify the reported closing of observation post "Mike" in the Suez Sector, and Mr. Powell referred him to Add. 355 of the UNTSO reports from General Odd Bull. Mr. Powell said that observation post Mike had been closed temporarily for reasons given in the report. In reply to questions he said that four other observation posts "Charlie", "Kilo", "Gold" and "Red" had been closed temporarily. This was five posts closed out of a total of 18. He added that the closings had become necessary because of the danger to observers and the damage done to the observation posts themselves. The Secretary-General is quite concerned about the temporary shutdowns which hamper the activities of U.N. observers in the area.

Asked which of the observation posts were on the East of the Canal and which were on the West, Mr. Powell replied that the posts which were named with colors were situated on the East and the others were on the West.

In answer to a query on whether General Odd Bull's hopes of establishing "safe perimeters" had been realized, Mr. Powell responded, that this was one of the topics which had been discussed with the Governments of the U.A.R. and Israel and that the re-siting of observation post "Mike" would be raised again on General Odd Bull's next visit to Cairo. A similar question on assuring more safe conditions in the war zone for United Nations observers was also discussed in Add. 355, Mr. Powell said. Odd Bull had raised the issue with General Fawzi of the UAR and General Dyan of Israel in September.

Had the Secretary-General sent his congratulations to Mr. Walter Lippman on the occasion of his 80th birthday was the next question, and Mr. Powell replied that he did not know but would find out and make the information available.

Asked if the Secretary-General shared the optimistic viewpoint of Mr. Michael Stewart (U.K. Foreign Secretary) on the question of a possible Middle East Settlement, Mr. Powell said U Thant would not wish to comment on the Middle East at this time.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

25 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General would have the following appointments today:

- 10:15 H.E. Mr. Habib Bourgiba Jr., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia
- 12:30 H.E. Mr. Abba Eban, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel
- 2:45 Ambassador Toure, (Guinea), Ambassador Njine (Cameroon), and Ambassador Thiam, Observer of the OAU
- 5:00 H.E. Mr. Gaston Thorn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg
- 5:30 H.E. Mr. Mirko Tepavac, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia
- 6:00 H.E. Mr. Ali Salim Albeidh, Foreign Minister of Southern Yemen
- 6:30 H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria

The appointments today of the President of the General Assembly are:

- 10:00 H.E. Mr. Gaston Thorn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg
- 1:15 Luncheon, given by Ambassador Shahi (Pakistan)
- 2:45 H.E. Mr. Merko Tepavac, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia

Immediately following the plenary session meeting with H.E. Ambassador Moctar Thiam, Observer of the OAU

- 6:00 Reception, given by Government of Guyana
- 7:00 Dinner, given by the Church Women United at the Church Centre for the United Nations

In tomorrow morning's plenary session of the General Assembly, the representatives of Jamaica, Poland, Tunisia and Albania are scheduled to speak. Speakers scheduled for tomorrow afternoon are the representatives of Yemen, Colombia, Ireland and Panama.

(more)

"What is the matter with Zeus?, one correspondent inquired.

"Poseidon, you mean," Mr. Powell corrected the questioner, referring to the statue located in the public lobby of the General Assembly building, which was covered today awaiting repairs that resulted from an act of vandalism yesterday afternoon.

The story began in the early hours of Sunday morning, said Mr. Powell, when a man who claimed that he was being persecuted and that the F.B.I. was conspiring to murder him and his family climbed the United Nations fence. He was apprehended by the guards who turned him over to the New York Police and was sent to Bellevue Hospital for observation. Last night, around 5:00 p.m., the man re-entered the Headquarters building, came up behind the statue of Poseidon and attempted to push it over. As far as could be ascertained, the man said that he was opposed to nudism and was protecting the morality of the world. In the attempt, the ankles of the plaster statue, a gift of the Government of Greece, were badly cracked. Repairs would be undertaken as soon as possible.

The name of the man involved was not released, but he is said to be a Pakistani and a resident physician at Coney Island Hospital.

"One might conclude," said Mr. Powell, "that Poseidon is not a push-over."

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26 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments today are as follows:

- 10:15 a.m. H.E. Mr. Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs of India
- 12:30 p.m. H.E. Dr. Antonio Carrillo Flores, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- 3:15 p.m. Ambassador Blaise Rabetafika (Madagascar) presentation of credentials
- 5:00 p.m. H.E. Mr. Pierre Harmel, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- 5:30 p.m. Judge Manfred Lachs (Poland) International Court of Justice
- 6:30 p.m. H.E. Mr. Farouk Abu Eisa, Minister of Cabinet for Foreign Affairs of Sudan

The appointments today of the President of the General Assembly are:

- 1:00 p.m. Lunch, given by Mr. Kurt Waldheim, (Austria)
- 2:45 p.m. Foreign Minister Al-Shaikhly (Iraq)

Mr. Powell said he failed to mention yesterday a press release announcing a new agreement reached between the ILO and the Government of Colombia under which ILO will begin a programme to promote mass employment. The agreement was negotiated by the President of Colombia and David Morse, Director General of the ILO.

Details of the announcement which is especially important in view of ILO's celebration of its 50th anniversary this year, are given in press release ILO/1631.

A correspondent asked if the suggested big four talks, in the event that they occurred, would take place on the Foreign Minister level. Mr. Powell responded that he did not know and had no guidance on the subject. Mr. Stewart has left for London even though the remaining three of the big four ministers were still in New York at the moment.

Mr. Powell then announced that there would be no U.S. press briefing today.

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29 September 1969

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General would have the following appointments today:

12:30 H.E. Mr. Kassaory Bangoura, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Guinea

5:30 H.E. Mr. Thanat Khoman, Foreign Minister of Thailand

6:00 6:30 H.E. Mr. Okoi Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs of Nigeria

He said Mrs. Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, would arrive at the United Nations at approximately 1:15 and attend a luncheon given by the Secretary-General. Nineteen persons are expected to attend the luncheon, and the list of invitees is available through Mr. Powell's office. A correspondent asked whether kosher food would be served, and Mr. Powell said he was not a specialist and did not know.

Appointments today of the President of the General Assembly are as follows:

9:30 H.E. Mr. Thanat Khoman, Foreign Minister of Thailand

9:45 H.E. Mr. Okoi Arikpo, Commissioner for External Affairs of Nigeria

10:00 H.E. Mr. Cyrille Adoula, Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

10:15 H.E. Mr. Azzene Assouan Usher, Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast

1:15 Luncheon, given by H.E. Mr. Pierre Harmel, Foreign Minister of Belgium

After her luncheon, she will greet Mrs. Golda Meir following the luncheon given by the Secretary-General.

5:30 Reception, for Mrs. Meir given by H.E. Mr. Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel

6:30 Reception, given by the Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Foreign Ministers of Uganda, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Chile are scheduled to speak in the plenary session of the General Assembly tomorrow morning. Speakers for tomorrow afternoon include the representatives of Ecuador, Bulgaria, Gabon, Kenya, Turkey (tentatively) and Equatorial Guinea.

(more)

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had been successful, through the use of his good offices, in clearing up the matter of Achkar Marof. Mr. Powell replied that he did not know.

When would the First Committee begin holding meetings, was the second query, and Mr. Powell said he would have to check.

To a question concerning conflicting reports in the papers yesterday on occurrences in Sinai, Mr. Powell replied that there were no United Nations observers in that area at all. He also stated in response to another question that observation post "Mike" in Suez along with four other posts was temporarily closed, and this amounted to a total of five.

Concerning what had happened to Odd Bull's proposals on "safe perimeters", Mr. Powell said the issue had been raised by General Bull in September during his conversations with General Dayan and General Fawzi.

What is Ambassador Jarring doing? With whom is he having appointments, another correspondent asked. Ambassador Jarring is persuing his mission, Mr. Powell said; as you know we don't discuss Mr. Jarring's appointments at all.

In response to a query, Mr. Powell then read the list of persons invited to the Secretary-General's luncheon today for Mrs. Golda Meir. A correspondent wanted to know why The Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland was included in the guest list. Mr. Powell said, the Ambassador of Iceland had been invited as the Chairman of the Western European group but he had been unable to attend and his Deputy was taking his place.

The questioner persisted, asking why the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States were not attending the lunch. Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had sent invitations to the Permanent Representatives, but they had found it impossible to attend because of prior engagements.

Asked if this would be a working lunch, Mr. Powell said no but that Mrs. Meir would meet with the Secretary-General directly after the luncheon.

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Was the President of the Security Council invited to the luncheon? Mr. Powell replied that the President of the Security Council had not been invited. Then, wasn't this against protocol? No, Mr. Powell responded.

Was the Secretary-General still using his good offices to secure the release of those persons detained in Syria after the recent airplane hijacking. The Secretary-General was still doing so as far as he knew, Mr. Powell replied.

Concerning security precautions for Mrs. Meir's visit, Mr. Powell said there would be normal security. He did not believe any extraordinary measures were being taken.

Would there be any announcements after the luncheon? I don't know Mr. Powell said, but I will certainly check with the Secretary-General.

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30 September 1969

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General would have the following appointments today:

- 10:15 -- H.E. Mr. Joachim Hunlede, Foreign Minister of Togo
- 3:00 -- H.E. Mr. Gabriel Valdes, Foreign Minister of Chile
- 4:30 -- H.E. Mr. A Gromyko, Foreign Minister of the USSR
- 5:30 -- H.E. Mr. Cyrille Adoula, Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 6:00 -- Ambassador Ortiz-Sanz, Secretary-General's representative for West Irian
- 6:30 -- Ambassador Moctar Thiam, Observer of the OAU

Mr. Powell then announced that Ambassador Ortiz-Sanz had arrived in New York over the weekend to begin working on the report on "Free Choice" in West Irian. There was no information on when the report would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

The appointments today of Miss Brooks, the President of the General Assembly, are:

- 9:45 -- H.E. Ambassador M. Ahmed Benhima (Morocco)
- 10:00 -- H.E. Dr. Carrillo Flores, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico
- 1:15 -- Will attend a luncheon given by H.E. Mr. Gabriel Valdés, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile in the United Nations Dining Room.

The World Bank report on the Needs of Developing Countries will be available tomorrow embargoed for 12 o'clock noon. A press release on the report will also be available with the same embargo. The report was prepared by Mr. Lester Pearson who was appointed by Mr. McNamara to undertake the study. The Center for Economic and Social Information is in touch with the World Bank, and will try to have a limited number of copies of the full report available.

Mr. Powell called attention to a Press release concerning a group of seven space scientists who will go to Argentina within the next few days to visit the sounding rocket launching facility at Mar Chiquita Station, near Mar del Plata,

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to see if it qualifies for United Nations sponsorship. The scientists will spend 10 days in Argentina, visiting the Mar Chiquita Station and other space research facilities, and will then report to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. If the report of the scientists is favorable, the Committee will recommend that the Station receive United Nations sponsorship as a center for international co-operation and training in the peaceful uses of outer space. The visiting space scientists are from Brazil, France, India, Italy, USSR, United Kingdom and the United States.

The Foreign Ministers of Southern Yemen, Netherlands, Thailand, and Nigeria are scheduled to speak in the general debate tomorrow morning. Tomorrow afternoon there will be speeches by Lesotho, Norway, Madagascar and Indonesia.

In answer to questions, Mr. Powell said the list of speakers in the general debate would be closed today at 5:00 p.m., and that the final day of the debate would be Wednesday, 8 October.

A correspondent asked whether the Secretary-General had any comment on the statements made by Mrs. Meir this morning on the "Today Show", and Mr. Powell said, no, there was nothing to be said about it.

Another correspondent wanted to know what was being done concerning the reported request by a group of Soviet citizens to have the United Nations investigate alleged violations of human rights in that country. The request was reported to have been handed in at the United Nations Information Center in Moscow, which according to Press reports had refused to accept the petition because the signatures were typewritten. Mr. Powell responded that a cable had been sent this morning to the Acting Director of the Moscow Center asking what had happened.

What is being done about the United Nations nurse who is to be tried in Israel?, another correspondent asked. Mr. Powell responded that he was in touch with the UNRWA office here and that a cable had been sent to Beirut.

Would the nurse be accorded diplomatic immunity in Israel? Mr. Powell said that he was not sure whether the Convention on Privileges and Immunities had been accepted by Israel.

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On what basis was the cable sent to Moscow this morning? On the basis of news reports, Mr. Powell responded.

Was there any United Nations regulation that covered turning away persons submitting petitions such as the one submitted Moscow reportedly to the Information Centre. Present policy is as it has been in the past; petitions handed in at United Nations offices should be forwarded to United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Powell said.

In response to a question he said that the name of the Acting Director of the United Nations Information Center in Moscow was Igor Chechetkin.

Was he the same person who was in charge last May, when a similar report was published in the press. Yes, Mr. Powell replied. Was any ruling made regarding such occurrences at the time of the last incident, the questioner continued. At that time Mr. Chechetkin had said that no one had come to the Center with a human right petition, was the response.

Who sent the cable to Moscow? OPI, was Mr. Powell's reply.

When you say OPI cabled Moscow, who do you mean, Mr. Obhrai or Mr. Hamid? The response was that Mr. Hamid is Assistant Secretary-General in charge of OPI.

Was there any reaction by the Secretary-General to the charge by the Canadian Foreign Minister that the United Nations was drowning in a sea of words? The Secretary-General does not comment on statements made in the general debate, Mr Powell said.

When would the UNRWA report be issued? On Monday morning, 6 October with an embargo for 5:00 p.m. New York Times, the same day. The report will be released simultaneously in Beirut and in New York, Mr. Powell answered.

When will the First Committee begin its meetings? The date on which the general debate ends, 8 October, was the response.

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