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Press Release UND/675
24 October 1961

UN DAY MESSAGE FOR YOUTH BY THE LATE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD

(The following UN Day message was written by the late Secretary-General for inclusion in United Nations Day materials provided for school and community observances. It was printed in September and distributed throughout the world.)

We are living again in one of those recurring periods of history when man's energy, spirit of adventure and will for progress carry him to new peaks of discovery and achievement. From the times of the earliest civilizations there have been, in different regions and at different epochs, such crests of endeavor which have widened man's horizons both physical and spiritual.

There are several features of the world situation today that mark it as a stage of special significance in the development of mankind. Human imagination and scientific ingenuity have been stirred by the exploration of cosmic space; atomic energy has been enlisted to serve technology; and the instinct for freedom which in the past has so often been the driving force for progress, has found a new outlet in the awakening of national consciousness in peoples determined to exercise their rights as new sovereign nations. These times are characterized also by a growing sense of the interdependence of peoples and, above all, by a realization that, apart from many other needs and aspirations shared in common, paramount is the need and desire for enduring peace so that all the world's resources and energies can be devoted to human progress.

Here, in essence, is the purpose for which the United Nations was created. Its key principle of international cooperation complements the spirit of this new age that seeks advances in all fields of human endeavor--political, economic, social and cultural.

The United Nations, the creation of which was itself evidence of the resolve of the peoples of the world to substitute the rule of law for recourse to war, is still young and is still growing. The aims and principles laid down in its Charter have yet to be fully accepted and applied to all the problems that confront the world; but it offers the only reliable route to a future where peace and justice can prevail.

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The worldwide celebrations of United Nations Day--the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter--recognize this fact and it is right that we lay stress not so much on the drafting and adoption of the Charter, historically significant as these were, but on the challenge to make the Charter, now and in the future, the cornerstone of international relations.

Young people are specifically involved in this challenge, for the future will largely be in their keeping. I am confident they will accept the challenge and that, in so doing, they will find in the United Nations a subject worthy of their most serious study; a cause deserving of their support; and an ideal that matches their youthful faith and enthusiasm.

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ADDRESSES GIVEN BY
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR. DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, AND BY
MR. R.V. KLEIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE STAFF COMMITTEE,
ON THE OCCASION OF STAFF DAY, GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL,
8 SEPTEMBER 1961, 4.30 P.M.

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ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am happy to have this opportunity to meet with you today. Both in the world at large, and by way of repercussion of world events on the Organization, much has happened during the two years which have elapsed since the last Staff Day.

During this period the General Assembly has met under most exacting circumstances and the Organization has had to undertake a major operation which in its magnitude and complexity has been quite unique in its history. As a result, the resources of the Secretariat have been heavily taxed, and I know that all of you have had to work under considerable pressure and that many of you have had to put in very long hours.

Those of you who have responded to the call to go out to the Congo, mostly at short notice, have displayed your readiness often despite considerable personal and family inconvenience. Quite a few of those who went out to the Congo are now back in New York and their place has been taken by others. I hope that all those of you who have had this opportunity of participating in the Congo operation feel as enriched by your experience as the Organization has been enriched by your contribution.

I have publicly paid tribute to all those who have participated directly in the Congo operation; but tribute is due equally to those who stayed behind and did the back-stopping from Headquarters. I therefore take this opportunity to record, and express, a deep gratitude to all of you for the way in which you have responded to the demands of the Organization.

The general world situation and its repercussions on the Organization have unavoidably left their mark on the Secretariat. In particular the discussions in the last session of the General Assembly have raised far-reaching questions on the nature of the Secretariat. What is at stake is a basic question of principle: Is the Secretariat to develop as an international secretariat, with the full independence contemplated in Article 100 of the Charter, or is to be looked upon as an inter-governmental - not international - secretariat providing merely the necessary administrative services for a conference machinery? This is a basic question and the answer to it affects not only the working of the Secretariat but the whole of the future of international relations.

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If the Secretariat is regarded as truly international, and its individual members as owing no allegiance to any national government, then the Secretariat may develop as an instrument for the preservation of peace and security of increasing significance and responsibilities. If a contrary view were to be taken, the Secretariat itself would not be available to member governments as an instrument, additional to the normal diplomatic methods, for active and growing service in the common interest.

I have dealt with this question at some length in various statements, most recently and fully in the Introduction to the Annual Report. It is a question which the Secretariat itself cannot answer as it is up to the Member Governments to decide what kind of Secretariat they want. But the quality and spirit of our work will necessarily greatly influence the reply.

In a situation like the one now facing all peoples of the world, as represented in this Organization, it is understandable that staff members should sometimes feel frustrated and even depressed. In that they are not different from their fellow beings in other positions influenced by the trend of world events. There is only one answer to the human problem involved, and that is for all to maintain their professional pride, their sense of purpose, and their confidence in the higher destiny of the Organization itself, by keeping to the highest standards of personal integrity in their conduct as international civil servants and in the quality of the work that they turn out on behalf of the Organization. This is the way to defend what they believe in and to strengthen this Organization as an instrument of peace for which they wish to work. Dejection and despair lead to defeatism - and defeat.

During this period of two years, one of the major changes affecting the Organization has been the introduction of many new Members, especially from Africa. The presence of these new Members is welcome, as it reflects the spread of independence and greater freedom, and as it greatly strengthens the Organization and its capacity for service. These new Members are entitled to get their fair share in the staff of the Organization. At the same time some of the older Members have shown greater interest than heretofore in the representation of their nationals in the Secretariat.

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These two factors have lent added urgency to a problem which affects everyone of you, namely the problem of adjusting geographical distribution. It has been obvious to me that adjustments should be made as quickly as possible to the new situation on the basis of the present formula, and without waiting for the consideration by the General Assembly of a new one. It has been our concern to ensure that these changes should be carried out with the least possible adverse effect on the promotion prospects and other service rights of the existing staff. I have the feeling that on the whole it has been possible to strike an equitable balance. Special hardship aspects are still under study.

I am advised that although the promotion registers have been issued only very recently, some 99 promotions have already been approved since the beginning of this year for staff subject to geographical distribution, including the G-5 level. In addition 25 promotions have also been authorized in the professional posts which are not subject to geographical distribution. In the general services category, excluding G-5, the number of promotions already approved for 1961 is 136, and 12 promotions have been authorized in the manual workers' category.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of requesting the General Assembly to authorize a certain number of personal promotions over and above those which may have taken place within the established Manning Table. This is one of the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts on the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat.

You are also aware that a number of important proposals dealing with salaries and allowances will be considered by the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. Some of these proposals have been based on the conclusions reached by the International Civil Service Advisory Board. Some others arise out of the recommendations submitted by the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments.

Elements like salaries and promotion naturally are very close to all of us and their significance for the feeling of security and quiet of staff

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members is obvious. But the spirit of a corps like the United Nations Secretariat, as it develops within the framework set by working conditions, is finally determined by other factors.

We all know that if we feel that what we do is purposeful, not to say essential for the progress of men and human society in a broader sense - yes, even if we believe that what we do is essential only for a small group of people and its future happiness - we are willing to accept hardships and serve gladly for the value of serving.

This common truth naturally applies to this Secretariat as to any other group in which people work together for a common aim. Of course, this does not justify those who decide on the conditions of service of the Secretariat to take advantage of the international spirit of service and of the idealism which may be found within its ranks by maintaining less than fair conditions of work. A good worker should be treated on a basis of equity whatever the motives which guide or inspire him. But it does mean that for the staff members themselves, given the proper conditions of work, the ultimate satisfaction they derive from the work will depend on their personal engagement in it and on their understanding of the collective aim which the work is intended to serve and its significance for the world in which we want to live and which we want to see built for future generations.

This leads me back to the international situation and to the role of the United Nations. It is true that we are passing through a period of unusual threats to human society and to peace. The dangers are too well known for me to add any comments here. If anything, you hear and see too much about them in the headlines of every paper. It is also true that the role of the Organization is necessarily a modest one, subordinated as it must be to Governments, and through Governments to the will of the peoples.

But, although the dangers may be great and although our role may be modest, we can feel that the work of the Organization is the means through which we all, jointly, can work so as to reduce the dangers. It would be too

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dramatic to talk about our task as one of waging a war for peace, but it is quite realistic to look at it as an essential and - within its limits - effective work for building dams against the floods of disintegration and violence.

Those who serve the Organization can take pride in what it has done already in many, many cases. I know what I am talking about if I say, for example, that short of the heavy work in which you, all of you, have had his or her part, the Congo would by now have been torn to pieces in a fight which in all likelihood would not have been limited to that territory, but spread far around, involving directly or indirectly many or all of the countries from which you come. I also know what the activities of the Organization in the economic and social fields have meant for the betterment of life of millions, and for the creation of a basis for a happier future.

This is not said in a spirit of boastful satisfaction with what this Organization has been able to do - which, alas, falls far short of the needs - but as a realistic evaluation of the contribution we all of us, individually, have been permitted to make through our work for this Organization. It is false pride to register and to boast to the world about the importance of one's work, but it is false humility, and finally just as destructive, not to recognize - and recognize with gratitude - that one's work has a sense. Let us avoid the second fallacy as carefully as the first, and let us work in the conviction that our work has a meaning beyond the narrow individual one and has meant something for man.

Those of us who have had the opportunity of working in a national civil service or the secretariat of a national government know, and understand fully, the added responsibilities and problems that one has to face when working in an international secretariat. These responsibilities cannot be discharged, and these problems cannot be solved, save by our own inner dedication to the cause which the world Organization is pledged to serve under the Charter. I am sure that all of you will continue to respond to any demand made on this Organization in the service of this common cause.

I would like very much to thank the Chairman of the Staff Committee for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with you on this occasion.

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ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STAFF COMMITTEE

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for your thought provoking address. I am certain I speak on behalf of the staff as a whole when I say that we appreciate the time and effort you have taken to be with us today. Your presence here and your speech demonstrate your interest and concern in the welfare and well-being of the staff at a time when the responsibilities and pressures of your office must, indeed, weigh heavily in light of recent world events.

I believe a word of explanation is due the staff at this time as to the nature of this special meeting. While the Secretary-General's representatives together with representatives of the Staff Council and Recreation Council contemplated a Staff Day celebration for today, some difficulties arose in connexion with the planning. This made it necessary to postpone to later this year, or possibly early next year, the entertainment aspect of Staff Day. These representatives will now turn their attention to arranging for as enjoyable a Staff Day as is possible to plan. We were, however, eager for the staff to hear the Secretary-General today.

The United Nations is indeed a unique organization which history will recognize has played a significant role in world affairs. We of the staff are proud to share, however modestly, with our Chief Administrative Officer - the Secretary-General - the ever widening obligations which this organization places upon us. For every emergency as well as during normal times the Professional and General Service staff at all levels are called upon to perform new and difficult tasks. This call to service in the fulfillment of the ideals and principles of the Charter has often required great personal sacrifice and hardship without material compensation. We have fulfilled these obligations willingly and unstintingly. The staff for its part, is anxious to do its utmost to help in meeting the increased responsibilities of the organization, as befits members of an international civil service. It is therefore concerned about maintaining a high level of efficiency and competence. To this end, it appreciates the need for an influx of additional talent, particularly from underrepresented areas. To this same end we would welcome an increase in the

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overall size of the staff so that it can cope more effectively with the increase in duties and responsibilities. This has a bearing on the staff's interest in better career prospects and promotional opportunities. These career opportunities have been below our just expectations. As you know, the staff has been worried for a long time about the inadequate promotional opportunities. This preoccupation has become more acute as a result of the large number of staff at the lower grades and the small percentage in the upper grades, coupled with the lack of an adequate age scatter in the Secretariat. In the interest of morale and consequent efficiency we hope for more adequate promotional opportunities. The staff is cognizant of the need to accelerate, in the light of the increase in United Nations membership, in the immediate future, the process of equitable geographical distribution. We are at the same time confident that a means will be found to accomplish this end without sacrifice. The Secretary-General has indicated his concern with this problem and has suggested one means to alleviate the situation, namely personal promotions. We hope his proposals are acceptable to the General Assembly and ~~that staff members~~ will not suffer further restrictions.

Another essential requisite for a sound civil service is adequate remuneration for work performed. This has recently, but belatedly, been recognized in a study made by the International Civil Service Advisory Board and embodied in its report to the executive heads of the member organizations in the UN family. The Board recommended that the base salaries for the professional category and above be increased by varying amounts from about 8 per cent to a maximum of about 20 per cent. The Board observed that "Both to put the organizations in a position where they can attract and retain staff of the standard contemplated by the Charter and for reasons of equity to existing staff, the scales recommended by the Board are no more than what is necessary". "In the Board's view, the UN base scales have already remained unchanged for too long a period".

In recognition of the need for increasing the base salaries and in agreement with the executive heads, the Secretary-General has informed us today that he has proposed to the General Assembly that the salary scales for professional category and above be raised as proposed by ICSAB effective next

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January. The staff is most grateful for the proposals made and hopeful that the General Assembly will take the necessary action. The staff representatives, however, believe that the percentage of increase should be more uniform and higher throughout the grades and steps.

We also welcome the proposals made by the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments and by the Secretary-General, including the proposal that NY be placed in post adjustment class 8 with effect from 1 March 1961. Other improvements in the post adjustment system will be the subject of further study in the expectation that appropriate proposals will be made at a later date.

Regarding General Service salaries, the survey compiled by the Commerce and Industry Association of New York which has been used in recent years as the basis of a comparison of UN salaries with those in the NY area, has just become available. It covers the period from 1 June 1960 to 1 June 1961. A complete analysis of the statistics contained in the survey is not yet available but a preliminary examination would appear to cast some doubt as to whether there has been a sufficient movement in outside salaries to warrant, as in previous years, an increase in General Service salaries at this time. This situation has, no doubt, resulted from recessional conditions in the host country during much of this period. Economic conditions now seem to be on the upswing which gives some hope that increases will be indicated at an early date. In connexion with the criteria of best prevailing conditions of employment in the locality, the staff representatives are studying the method of analysis and comparison between the UN and the local area. It is hoped that a new and more equitable method may be found which will benefit General Service staff. We are also turning our attention to improvements in a variety of other conditions of work including the long overdue improvement of air conditioning in the basement areas. It is common knowledge that in the last decade, non-salary conditions of employment on the outside have been substantially improved while these conditions of employment in the UN have lagged behind.

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With respect to the manual workers, their salaries, which are fixed in a similar manner as General Service salaries, were, after extensive negotiations with the Controller and his representatives, increased by about 4 per cent with effect from 1 April this year. Other conditions of their employment might benefit from studies similar to those contemplated for General Service staff.

In concluding, I wish to convey to you, Mr. Hammarskjold, our deep appreciation of the recognition you have given the endeavours of the staff. We have found in your representatives, Sir, the same willingness to see and understand our problems and aspirations that you have demonstrated to us today. Although we appreciate that it has not always been possible to acquiesce to staff requests, we will continue to maintain close contact with yourself and your representatives in our mutual desire to serve the common interest. In behalf of the staff, I should like to say to you, Sir, that your address today has renewed in us a sense of real participation in the work of the Organization. It has also served to renew in us that sense of purpose of which you spoke. Thank you for sharing some of your thoughts with us.

On behalf of the Secretary-General and myself I wish to thank you all for coming here today. The meeting is now over.

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Press Release SG/1046
20 July 1961

PREPARED TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD,
REGARDING COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES,
BEFORE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, GENEVA, 13 JULY 1961

(The following, previously released by the Information Service of the UN European Office at Geneva, is reissued here for reference purposes.)

The present item* provides the opportunity for reviewing the economic and social activities of the United Nations family, their development and coordination. Those activities have, during the past year, been greatly intensified and expanded.

New demands for international action have arisen in many fields and from many sources. The special needs of the newly independent countries have, however, been a dominant concern.

To help meet some of these needs, the General Assembly voted an addition to this year's budget of the United Nations of three and a half million dollars; largely for the same purpose, additional provision was made in the budgets of several of the specialized agencies, and the resources contributed to the expanded program of technical assistance and to the Special Fund were considerably augmented.

[In the case of the Special Fund, the effect of this increase in resources on operations has been cumulative, for the preliminary work on projects approved at the first meetings of the Governing Council has in any case been giving rise to a rapidly increasing volume of field activity.]

In many of our organizations the growth in field operations has been matched by the development of other activities, at the regional even more perhaps than at the Headquarters level. Indeed one of the salient features of the past year has been the greatly increased vitality of regional action in certain of the specialized agencies as well as in the United Nations itself.

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* Entitled "General review of the development, coordination and concentration of the economic, social and human rights programs and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole."

The scope of the general expansion in the work of the United Nations family is apparent from the reports of the agencies, commissions and committees that are now before you. So is the fact that the United Nations organizations have been entrusted with a great and growing responsibility vis-a-vis the governments and peoples of their members. My colleagues from the specialized agencies and the IAEA will be speaking shortly about salient developments in their respective fields. I will confine myself to commenting briefly on some developments which seem to me of special significance and which affect most of our organizations.

Let me begin with the problem of coordination. Most of the major activities of each of our organizations involve the competence of other organizations also and have to be undertaken jointly or in consultation. I need not elaborate on the facts: many examples have been given in the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Council's ad hoc committee which are now before you.

But I do want to stress that the problems of coordination facing the United Nations family have been changing, and have become more serious and more difficult. They have become more difficult because of the complex character of the tasks now being undertaken, the increase in the scope of those tasks, the process of decentralization, and, finally, the growth of bodies, within and outside the United Nations, at Headquarters and at regional levels, each of which is in one way or another concerned with a wide range of subjects.

They have changed and become more serious because it is no longer a question of a mere division of functions but of how we can in practice organize ourselves, each under his separate governing and executive organs, to carry out together a great range of operational functions.

The main thing is not to avoid at all costs discussing or studying the same things -- indeed, approaching the same things from different angles may present advantages -- but what is essential in an operational program is to eliminate all possible duplication in action, divided counsels, and, first and foremost, competition among international organizations.

It should be recognized that these dangers are with us. They are especially great where there is pressure for immediate action to meet urgent problems, such as those related to newly independent states. But in the more ordinary course of our administrative actions, the situation is also not always satisfactory. It is a fact that dispersion of responsibilities, uncoordinated initiatives, complexity of procedures and a certain degree of administrative "Byzantinism" are used as an

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argument against the strengthening of action through the United Nations family, and in favor of new, more homogenous and centralized institutions outside the framework of the United Nations.

The role of the United Nations family is surely far too crucial to allow this challenge to go unanswered, and to meet it should be a first priority for the ACC as well as for this Council.

Through the ACC, a great effort to achieve fuller cohesion among our organizations' activities is being made through intensified consultations, through the development of new arrangements for coordination at the regional centers and through establishing the central role of the Resident Representatives, country by country, in our pre-investment and technical assistance work.

In its special report to the Council, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary questions has -- in my view rightly -- laid special stress on this last point. It is clearly of key importance to the future not only of the whole program of assistance but also to the relations between that program and others.

Great emphasis has been laid recently, in particular by this Council, on "concerted action" in respect of undertakings involving more than one agency. A number of results have been achieved in this way, in certain fields such as community development, water resources, and training and education. However, the potentialities of such formulae should not be overestimated, and their limitations should be acknowledged.

Concerted action can become a burdensome and expensive undertaking, frequently requiring more time, energy and money than may be necessary for the effective discharge of certain functions. If it were to be undertaken solely for the reason that the mandate of certain agencies overlap, then perhaps some more efficient and at the same time more economical arrangement could be found.

We should not be reluctant to entrust a single officer or a single unit with tasks on behalf of several agencies, or in the field of several agencies. Our resources are so meager that we should neglect no opportunity to pool and stretch them.

More thought should also be given to the permanent outposting of staff from one agency to another so that staff with different backgrounds may work within integrated units. Such arrangements may be far more practical than the discussions and negotiations which are sometimes inevitable in joint projects or "concerted action." In all this, it is important -- and this seems to be implicit throughout the ACC report -- that there should be a readiness to give and take without too much formality or formal concern. (more)

The Congo civilian operation has provided a signal demonstration of the possibilities of cooperation and coordination among the United Nations organizations. It was no less significant in terms of the contribution made toward safeguarding the country against economic and social collapse. The record of the past year has not been without encouraging developments in other areas also. I shall select, perhaps somewhat arbitrarily, three developments of this kind. I referred on Monday to the new emphasis on economic and social development programing.

Governments have more and more been turning to the United Nations for assistance and advice in this field. This has been the case in particular in relation to the regional economic commissions but also as regards Headquarters in connection, for example, with projections, programing techniques and studies such as those on the economic implications of disarmament. Much will depend upon how this challenge is met.

Increasing emphasis, moreover, has been laid on industrial programing in the context of the establishment of the Council's Committee for Industrial Development and the decision of the Council at its last session that an Industrial Development Center be created within the United Nations Secretariat. Among other tasks, the Center is intended to promote coordination of international work in this field; steps to bring it into being are now under consideration with the interested specialized agencies.

The second broad development I might mention concerns the use of United Nations machinery in connection with the granting of aid to the developing countries. The expansion of our technical assistance and pre-investment activities has already been alluded to and under another item you will be considering the report of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund.

My colleagues of the specialized agencies and I sincerely welcome the establishment of the International Development Association as a complement and buttress of our work for the promotion of economic development. The need for capital investment needs no stressing and IDA should provide opportunities for this which, until now, were not available in the setting of the United Nations family.

You will recall that the agreement between the United Nations and the new agency provides for a liaison committee for purposes of consultation, consisting of the President of IDA and myself, with the Managing Director of the Special Fund and the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board. A first meeting of that committee was held recently in New York.

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As a further step in the use of the machinery of the United Nations system in the granting of economic aid, the proposal contained in the General Assembly's resolution concerning arrangements for the utilization of surplus food is potentially of great importance. Under that resolution, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization has submitted a broad plan for surplus utilization in a document entitled "Development through Food" to which he referred in the Council's discussion last Monday. I myself have put forward a brief report, in response to the General Assembly's request, specifically on the role of the international organizations in the utilization of food surpluses for economic development.

Apart from the actual administration of assistance for economic development, the United Nations system is, I believe, well equipped to help advise and coordinate bilateral aid programs in such a field. This function of facilitating and supplementing bilateral action has recently been exemplified by the role of the International Bank in organizing consortia for aid to India and Pakistan and, on a more modest scale, by the activities of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in establishing a multilateral framework for bilateral assistance in connection with the Mekong River project.

I turn now to a third major element in the work of the past year -- the efforts to mobilize the latent resources within the developing countries themselves, with special reference to education and training and the promotion of science and technology.

Reporting to the Council last year, I laid special emphasis on education and training as central to almost all our work in the newly independent countries. Through the ACC a basis is being laid for an integrated program in this field.

Special reports submitted to the Council by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization record the proceedings and findings of the Conference of African States on Education, which was held in Addis Ababa in May under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Africa, and with the support of other members of the United Nations family. The conference unanimously adopted a plan for African educational development of great interest for the strengthening of cooperation in Africa.

Of no less significance for the future has been the development of international work in the fields of science and technology. The Council has before it for approval a proposal that the United Nations should call a conference on the application of science and technology for the benefit of the less developed countries. If that proposal is approved -- as I most sincerely hope -- it will be

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an important and most challenging task, in the year to come, to carry that decision through to a successful conclusion.

I have indicated some developments in the work and potentialities of the United Nations family which seem to me to merit the attention of the Council. Before concluding I would like to revert to the basic difficulties of the situation on which I dwelt at the beginning, because I feel that the character and the magnitude of those difficulties should be known and appreciated by the governments. The secretariats by their own isolated efforts can never fully overcome them.

As the Council has time and again recognized, it is ultimately for the governments, and the Council on their behalf, to take the basic decisions on which the secretariats can build.

It will not, I feel sure, be taken amiss if I urge that this year the Council give special attention to the question of consolidating United Nations action in the field, with special reference to the role of the Resident Representatives. It would be helpful, too, if it would indicate, where required, the common lines of action we should follow and the desired distribution of primary responsibility for broad projects and programs among our several organizations.

Such guidance of the Council will help us to carry out as a team the very great tasks that are being placed upon us, and, thus, to give full effect to the intentions of the member governments.

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Press Release ECOSOC/1872
17 July 1961

COUNCIL CONCLUDES DEBATE ON WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION
WITH STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

(The following is based on information received from the Information Service of the European Office of the United Nations, at Geneva.)

Addressing the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold has expressed hope that studies by a new group of UN experts would improve understanding of the "magnitude of the armament burden," the long-term benefits that disarmament would bring, and the policies needed to cushion transitional effects.

A group of 10 experts was recently appointed by the Secretary-General to assist him in examining the "national economic and social consequences of disarmament in countries with different economic systems and at different stages of economic development." It is expected to convene on 18 August in Geneva.

In his statement, Mr. Hammarskjold told the Council on 13 July* that the full cooperation of governments was "vital" in the studies to be undertaken on the question of the economic and social consequences of disarmament.

The target rate for international assistance of one per cent of the combined national incomes of the economically advanced countries -- proposed last year by the General Assembly -- could be surpassed several times, the Secretary-General said, if real progress could be achieved in freeing resources from armament production.

The Secretary-General made his comments as the Economic and Social Council concluded its general debate on world economic trends. Final statements in the discussion were made by the representatives of Poland, Jordan, Uruguay, Denmark and Venezuela, as well as by the observers for Peru and Tunisia.

Mr. Hammarskjold stressed the importance of this annual debate. He added: "One cannot fail to be impressed by the manner in which we have all come to take for granted the most far-reaching responsibilities of the international community for the economic and social progress of mankind everywhere, responsibilities which would have been completely unthinkable only a generation ago."

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* This report was delayed by transmission difficulties.

Referring to "the revolution in our thinking," he said: "We have accepted as axiomatic a responsibility of the international community to set aside part of its resources in manpower, materials, equipment, finance and technical know-how in order to assist in the economic development of the less developed countries. We have thus assumed an international responsibility to reduce the disparities in the levels of living between nations, a responsibility parallel to that accepted earlier for greater economic and social equality within nations."

Continuing, he said that the problems and policies of economic growth and stability "are no longer the exclusive concern of national governments; instead they are regularly accepted as also coming within the international domain for consideration, exchange of information, consultation and recommendation."

The debate just concluded, he added, was "adequate evidence of the extent to which all such matters of national policy, heretofore reserved exclusively for national consideration, have been opened to examination by the international community. No one can doubt the importance of this continuing exchange of views and sharing of experience within the forum of the United Nations."

Mr. Hammarskjold remarked that the attention of the Council was coming to be more and more concentrated on the twin problems of expansion of international trade and international aid for economic development.

"Is the time perhaps drawing near when the Council might wish to reexamine how well the United Nations is equipped to give expert consideration to this range of problems and to formulate adequate policies to provide for the maximum contribution of international trade to economic development?" he asked.

The proposed target rate for the international capital flow of one per cent of the combined national incomes of the economically advanced countries already seemed attainable, he said, but it could be surpassed several times if real progress could be achieved in freeing resources now being sidetracked into armament production on an ever-increasing scale.

The discussion, he said, "will, I am sure, have given us all a greater sense of urgency in relation to the study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament being undertaken with the assistance of a group of experts whom I have appointed to advise me. With the full cooperation of governments in this undertaking -- and such cooperation is in my judgment vital -- I feel confident that this study can make a major contribution to the fuller understanding of the magnitude of the armament burden, of the policies necessary to minimize any transitional

(more)

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

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD
AT THE UNVEILING OF THE LORD CECIL MEMORIAL
AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, 11 JULY 1961

(The following was received here from the Information Service of the UN European Office, Geneva.)

The following is the text of a statement by United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold at a ceremony held today for the unveiling of a memorial to Viscount Cecil of Chelwood in the Palais des Nations -- European Office of the United Nations -- in Geneva (see Press Release M/1366):

After the breakdown of traditional diplomacy manifested in the First World War -- the breakdown of conference diplomacy, from Vienna to The Hague, as well as of the bilateral diplomacy of big-power chancelleries -- Lord Cecil was one of those dreamers who saw an alternative in the discipline of international cooperation within an international organization with the extragovernmental attributes of an international parliamentary democracy.

He saw this alternative, he believed in it, and he worked for it until the first breakdown also of all efforts along these lines.

At about the time when the League of Nations got its home in this building, ruthless men, inspired by their doctrinaire concepts of man and his destiny, rejected this discipline and broke up the League, from within and from without. Again, it seemed that the constructive forces of life -- as always facing the world nude and unprotected as is man at his creation on the panel above us -- had succumbed to the brutal strength and inertia of the lust for power.

The Second World War came, and at its end the same hope and the same ideas which had given rise to the League found expression in the Charter of the United Nations. As one of the great, no, one of the greatest of the past, Lord Cecil, at the last meeting of the League in April 1946, blessing the efforts of the United Nations, rightly could point out that the new Organization would not have been possible without -- and I quote -- "the great experiment" of the League of Nations.

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History never repeats itself. And history always repeats itself. Lord Cecil might not have recognized the problems which today face the Organization living in the Palais des Nations and yet he would have found them familiar. With his idealism and his pragmatism he would not have lost faith, in spite of accumulating difficulties; he would have seen the Organization as what it is, a second "great experiment," which may seemingly fail, but, if that were to happen, would have carried forward the spirit which one day must stand victorious -- and would have done so, broadening the field of experience and chiseling out, to greater clarity and firmness, the principles on which international cooperation has to be built, if we are one day to arrive at a community of men, built on justice and living in peace.

It is fitting that in this house and in this hall we honor the memory of Lord Cecil, honor him for his great personal contribution to the life of the League of Nations, to the birth of the United Nations, and to the development of the spirit which both organizations should embody. We are grateful to the Committee which has made this memorial possible, and we wish to express our thanks to its members here present, one of whom also is the present head of the House of Cecil.

May the words inscribed on the wall remind us of a great fighter for peace and inspire us to continue with undaunted faith the work in which he played such a vital part.

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