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Conference on Special Fund and Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA), 2 Nov 1965

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The British
M.P's were
Commendably
pleased with
their visit,
especially your
dinner party.

TO: Mr. Ch. Narasimhan
A:

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YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
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FOR INFORMATION		POUR INFORMATION

I attach the brief for the Secretary-General for the opening of the 1965 UN Pledging Conference on EPTA and the Special Fund which is scheduled for 10.30 AM on Tuesday 2 November 1965.

Date: 28 Oct.65

FROM: Charles Hogan
DE:

CR.13 (11-64)

Note for Secretary-General

1965 United Nations Pledging Conference on the Expanded Programme
of Technical Assistance and Special Fund

General Assembly Hall at 10.30 a.m., Tuesday, 2nd November 1965

The Secretary-General will call the Conference to order and make his opening remarks. He should then call for nominations for President and recognize the representative of Finland, who will nominate H.E. Danilo Lekić (Yugoslavia), and the representative of India who will second the nomination.

He will then ask for further nominations. There being none, he should declare Mr. Danilo Lekić elected unanimously and ask him to take the Chair. When Mr. Lekić has taken the Chair, the Secretary-General may leave.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE FLEDGING CONFERENCE
FOR THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND
THE SPECIAL FUND - 2 NOVEMBER 1965

This meeting to which I am privileged and pleased to welcome you is the sixteenth annual event of its kind. This conference, at which we appeal for and receive pledges of contributions to our main programmes of technical cooperation, is a gathering which has become something of an institution within the United Nations system. It has become that not simply because of its regularity, but also because of its significance - a material and moral significance so large, and of such fundamental importance to the United Nations system as a whole, as well as to the developing countries whose well-being is most immediately concerned, that I should like, with your permission, to express some thoughts upon it in that broader perspective.

I believe that the considerations I have in mind will help to explain why I have appealed to all those Governments and authorities which already contribute to the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund, and to those others which I hope will join them, to raise their sights higher than ever before. As you know, we have ventured to put before you a goal in 1966 of \$200 million for the combined programmes. What I have to say may ^{perhaps} help to convince you that we are asking for this still quite modest increase in resources, not because it has become our habit or our tradition to ask for something more every year, but rather because there are well-founded reasons why we should do so.

I have three principal elements in mind. The first of these is the extent to which a need exists for the kinds of assistance which the United

Nations can provide to the developing countries through these programmes. The second is the degree to which the United Nations system is equipped, technically and administratively, to meet that need, given the resources to do so. The third is the question of the importance which these programmes have to the international order as a whole.

As for the need that exists for our programmes, I do not think that this can be in doubt. The persuasive evidence of it lies in the present pace of economic development in the countries concerned. That pace has been too slow, and it must be accelerated. There is a constant and indeed constantly increasing demand from the developing countries for the types of assistance which the United Nations and the agencies associated with it are able, and in many cases uniquely able, to give them. More than one hundred Governments in many parts of the world are continuing to ask for this assistance. They are, indeed, even now asking us for much more than we are able to provide. Altogether, they have brought to our attention specific projects needing technical assistance amounting to at least half as much again as we have been able to give them. And we know that the need is even greater than that. One measure of this need is that a large number of the developing countries - more than fifty altogether - are actually buying additional technical assistance from the participating organizations through funds-in-trust arrangements. But many other countries cannot afford to do so, and even those which can afford it are seriously in need of greater external assistance for their economic and social development and the strengthening of their administrations and institutions.

The second element which I have mentioned is the capacity of the United Nations system, given the necessary resources, to meet the needs of the developing countries for technical assistance. This is essentially a

question of the efficiency and economy of the programming and delivery of assistance in the great variety of fields of activity in which the participating organizations in the Expanded Programme, and the executing agencies for the Special Fund, are competent. I readily concede, and I am sure that my colleagues who are the executive heads of the other agencies will concur, that from both the technical and administrative points of view, and also in terms of coordination of effort, we still have a good deal to accomplish, and certainly there is scope for the refinement and perfection of our methods. At the same time I venture to say that we have already reached a point where the techniques of providing useful and effective technical assistance and investment advice are very highly advanced, and also where the modalities of concerted action on the part of the technical agencies, and the coordination of their action among themselves and with that of the international financial institutions and other aid agencies, are much more expert and effective than they were when our programmes began. By trial and error, and through the accumulated experience of more than fifteen years, we and the Governments we are assisting have learned a great deal about providing assistance where, when and how it is really useful. The help we are giving is now much more systematically related to the development plans and objectives of the recipient countries; it is more carefully planned and organized than ever before; and it is more methodically and expertly supported by the knowledge and experience of the professional and technical staffs of the responsible agencies.

The third and last factor which I would like you to consider is the less tangible, but I think no less important, matter of the part which

our technical cooperation programmes have to play in the fulfilment of the total responsibilities of the United Nations system towards the building of a more secure and prosperous world than that in which we presently live. We have great difficulties, as you know, in reaching accommodations and agreements on the serious political issues that tend to influence, if they do not override, all other aspects of peaceful co-existence and progress. But in this field of technical co-operation, of the exchange of skills and knowledge, of the development of institutions designed to help countries to strengthen their technical and administrative structures and improve the lot of the ordinary man and woman, and of the survey and development of human and material resources, we have a conspicuous and impressive measure of agreement and co-operation. In the Expanded Programme of technical assistance and in the Special Fund we have achieved a level of international harmony of purpose and action, free from political considerations and increasingly supported by technical efficiency, expertise and knowledge on a world wide scale, which is one of the greatest achievements and assets of the United Nations system. I believe that we can claim to have done a great deal in this field. I also believe that we are capable of doing much more. The modest increase in resources for which we are now appealing will help us to do a good deal more, and to do it more efficiently and with more useful results.