

Press Briefings and Press Conferences of the Sec.-Gen.: U Thant
I Daily Press Briefings

22/01/1968 - 29/03/1968

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OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS

January to March 1968

2 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General's appointments for today -- with Spyros Kyprianou, Foreign Minister of Cyprus; Dimitri S. Bitsios (Greece), and Orhan Eralp (Turkey) -- were all connected with the implementation of the Security Council's resolution of 22 December 1967 on Cyprus.

Mr. Powell read out the text of a letter from Jordan, addressed to the Secretary-General, which had just been handed in with a request that it be circulated as a document of both the Security Council and the General Assembly. In this letter, Jordan complained that "Israeli occupation forces" had shelled the Wadi el-Yabis refugee camp and the adjoining area, killing three civilians and wounding six, yesterday. The letter stated that, in spite of the Security Council's resolution of 14 June 1967, Israel had carried on a policy of "oppression, lawlessness and terrorism". Inasmuch as the resolution asked the Secretary-General to follow the effective implementation of the resolution, Jordan was putting this information before him "with a request that adequate steps be taken to put an end to these Israeli crimes".

In anticipation of questions, Mr. Powell said that no official reports had been received here about this incident, as the United Nations had no observers on the Jordan-Israel sector. There was, however, some information to the effect that one of the three civilians killed was a local employee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Asked what steps the Secretary-General would take in reply to this request, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General had just received it, would study the text and would take the matter up in the context of the resolution.

In reply to further questions, he said there was no indication of a Security Council meeting on this or any other matter related to the Middle East at the present time.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said that next Monday, 8 January, the pledging conference for the World Food Programme would be held here. The Programme was a joint activity of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization. (FAO). Addeke H. Boerma, head of the Programme and the newly

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elected Director-General of FAO, would be present at the pledging conference and would hold a press briefing on Tuesday, 9 January, following the regular noon briefing.

A correspondent noted that the new document listing contributions by Member States (document ST/ADM/SER.B/204) did not list arrears or the Congo and Middle East accounts. He asked when the decision had been taken not to list them? Mr. Powell said he would look into the matter.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the latest appeals of Pope Paul VI, Ramses Nassif replied that "the Secretary-General fully shares the Pope's deep concern for the plight of the unfortunate people involved in the war" in Viet-Nam. Asked if he had any comment on the expansion of the war, Mr. Nassif said he could not go beyond this statement.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been contacted during the last month by envoys, or reputed envoys, from Hanoi, Mr. Nassif said he was in no position to answer the question. The correspondent remarked, "Well, that's an answer".

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the statement of the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Nguyen Duy Trinh (who was reported to have said that Hanoi would definitely participate in negotiations if there was a cessation of the bombing), Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not wish to make a comment at this time.

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FOR INFORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

3 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General had any comment now on the statement of the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Nguyen Duy Trinh, in view of the publication of the full text of that statement.

In reply, Mr. Nassif said that on 22 December 1967 he had stated: "The Secretary-General's views on this subject (the cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam) are well-known and he wants to reiterate his long-held conviction that the cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam is the first essential step which alone can lead to meaningful discussions and negotiations".

Mr. Nassif said that today he was authorized to add that "the statement of the Foreign Minister of North Viet-Nam, carried by Radio Hanoi on 1 January 1968, reinforces this conviction".

In reply to questions, Mr. Nassif said that this was a comment on one particular element in the statement, not on the statement as a whole. His impression was that the Secretary-General had seen the full text of the statement, although he had not checked this particular point. Asked if the Secretary-General had been advised in advance that the statement would be made, Mr. Nassif said he was unable to say. In reply to a further question, he said that the Secretary-General had previously used the word "will" (lead to discussions and negotiations).

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had seen the dispatch from Hanoi carried by the Czechoslovak news agency, indicating that the Western Press had distorted the statement of the Foreign Minister, and that it really contained nothing new. Mr. Nassif said he would draw this to the Secretary-General's attention.

On other matters, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's press conference, scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, 16 January, would be held at 10:30 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., as requested by the former President of the United Nations Correspondents Association, Mr. Raghavan.

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William Powell said that a note would be issued later today on the forthcoming visit of Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, to the United Nations Headquarters. Mr. Eshkol would be the Secretary-General's guest at luncheon on Friday, 5 January, and would tour the Council Chambers and the General Assembly Hall. He was not scheduled to hold a press conference.

To questions on the Middle East, Mr. Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, was in Jerusalem today and was seeing Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel. There was no indication of a request for a Security Council meeting on the Middle East, as of this time. Asked if the Secretary-General agreed with the interpretation, implied in the letter from Jordan (document S/8321-A/7032) yesterday, that he could take the initiative for action under Security Council resolution 237, of 14 July 1967, Mr. Powell said he would check.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General would issue a brief report on Cyprus late today or tomorrow, which would deal with the establishment of an administrative council by the Turkish Cypriots.

He said that Marc Schreiber, Director of the Human Rights Division in the Secretariat, would hold a press briefing tomorrow, after the regular noon briefing, on plans for observance of 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights.

Mr. Powell noted that Georges Wolff, bureau chief of Agence France-Presse, had been awarded the Legion of Honour. (Applause.)

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4 January 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif announced that the Secretary-General's press conference had been rescheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 17 January. In reply to questions, Mr. Nassif said he did not know why the date had been changed. This date was more convenient for the Secretary-General.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the continued reports of "peace feelers" by North Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General "still stands by what he said yesterday" and did not wish to add to that statement. Asked for the Secretary-General's views on the proposals to strengthen the International Control Commission, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not wish to comment at this time.

William Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, had returned today from Jerusalem to Nicosia. Mr. Powell said he had no information on Mr. Jarring's further travel plans.

In reply to a question, he said that, while most of the additional observers for the Suez Canal sector were now in place, the helicopters and patrol craft were still under discussion with the Governments concerned.

Mr. Powell drew attention to the Secretary-General's new report on the situation in Cyprus (document S/3323) and to the sections now available of the 1967 report on the World Social Situation (document E/CN.5/417). Additional sections of the report, prepared for the session of the Commission on Social Development, opening on 5 February, would come out from time to time during January. All were embargoed for 4 February. A press release summarizing the report would be issued.

Following the regular briefing, Marc Schreiber, Director of the Human Rights Division, gave a briefing on the plans for the International Year for Human Rights.

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4 January 1968

PRESS BRIEFING BY MARC SCHREIBER ON HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR

Marc Schreiber, Director of the United Nations Division of Human Rights, gave a press briefing this afternoon on the International Year for Human Rights, being commemorated in 1968.

He recalled that the Year had been proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1963, and that the Assembly, during the last three years, had adopted three resolutions listing activities that might take place in connexion with the observance. The Secretary-General had been asked to co-ordinate and publicize these activities.

Mr. Schreiber said that the Year had five objectives: (1) to focus the attention of world public opinion on the importance of respect for the individual, on violations of human rights and on how such rights could be protected; (2) to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (3) to review what had been done for the protection of the individual -- internationally, regionally and nationally; (4) to assess whether existing institutions and methods were adequate, through "a world-wide confrontation of the best minds in our time" to consider such topics as how modern technology affects the right to privacy, and (5) to prepare a new programme of activities -- a universal consensus as to what should be done in this field over the next five to 20 years.

Reviewing activities planned by the United Nations in connexion with the International Year, he said the major one would be the International Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Teheran. The programme of activities was annexed to Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI) of 19 December 1966. Heads of United Nations agencies would issue statements, and that of the Secretary-General would be delivered in connexion with the International Conference, which U Thant hoped to open in Teheran.

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The United Nations, he went on, would issue a special postage stamp and release four special postal cancellations, including one in June -- bearing the slogan "Human Rights Year - Freedom of Information" -- on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Correspondents' Association. The Office of Public Information would issue more than a million copies of the Universal Declaration in over 60 languages. Two special leaflets were being prepared, and radio and television programmes would be made available. On 10 December, the General Assembly would hold a special meeting to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration, to be attended by persons who had participated in its drafting. A special concert would also take place on that day.

Also on 10 December 1968 -- Human Rights Day -- it was hoped that the first human rights prizes would be awarded to between one and five persons who had made outstanding contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights during the past 20 years, said Mr. Schreiber. The recipients would be selected by a five-member United Nations committee. The awards would take the form of plaques. Candidates for the prizes would be nominated by States. Later prizes might be awarded at five-year intervals.

The Director of the Human Rights Division also recalled that the General Assembly last year had unanimously asked Governments to ratify or accede to the International Covenants on Human Rights, and had adopted a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Turning to what Governments would do to celebrate the Year, he said that they would review national legislation to see whether it was consistent with United Nations standards. As an example, he cited Canada, where a conference was to discuss the incorporation of a bill of rights in the Constitution. The other governmental effort would be educational -- through lectures, seminars and courses on human rights. A number of countries, among them Argentina and the United States, had formally proclaimed the International Year. Heads of State would issue special messages and national awards would be made.

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Non-governmental organizations were assisting in these activities, he continued. Religious authorities at the highest level had given support to the observance. More than 100 organizations had reported to the United Nations on a variety of activities that they would undertake. Non-governmental organizations would hold a world-wide conference in September at UNESCO House in Paris.

He said that specialized agencies were co-operating fully in plans for Human Rights Year. The Director-General of the International Labour Organisation would present a special report to the International Labour Conference on the theme "The ILO and Human Rights". The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was mobilizing artistic resources to celebrate the Year. A theatre association had recommended that its members present a play on a human rights theme. The Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization were co-operating, as were regional intergovernmental organizations.

Turning to the Teheran Conference, Mr. Schreiber observed that he had been appointed Executive Secretary of the Conference, which would be held from 22 April to 12 or 13 May. The Government of Iran was putting at the disposal of the Conference a new Majlis (Parliament) building. Invitations were being sent to members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, as well as to representatives of the agencies themselves, of other intergovernmental organizations, and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or whose applications to attend were approved by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

The agenda for the Conference (contained in annex to document A/6670) related to the objectives of the Year, he stated. The Preparatory Committee hoped that States would include in their delegations "some of the outstanding personalities of our time". It was hoped that the Conference would come up with recommendations to improve institutional arrangements and would also suggest the areas of human rights on which the United Nations should concentrate. The Conference would cost the United Nations \$350,000, while the Iranian Government would spend an additional \$225,000 to cover the extra costs of holding the meeting in Iran, not counting the work it had done or would do on the spot.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

5 January 1968

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing today, William Powell read out the guest list for the Secretary-General's luncheon today in honour of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Israel. The Secretary-General was scheduled to talk with Mr. Eshkol for 40 minutes before the luncheon. Asked if there would be a statment afterward, Ramses Nassif said he would check. Asked if the menu for the luncheon would be a kosher one, Mr. Powell read out the menu, listing bass with champagne sauce as the main dish. Asked if the champagne was French, Mr. Nassif said it was.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General was continuing his consultations on Cyprus, and was meeting separately today with the representatives of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been informed, directly or indirectly, by Hanoi before its recent peace moves, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. Asked if the Secretary-General had any comments on the present stage of the matter, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General did not want to go beyond what he had already stated. Asked if the Secretary-General had been consulted by the United States, Mr. Nassif said that, to the best of his knowledge, there had been no recent contact between the United States delegation and the Secretary-General, except for an appointment with William B. Buffum, Deputy Permanent Representative, which concerned other matters.

A correspondent asked if the apparent peace moves by Hanoi, which he described as a sort of detente, could be said to be a product of the Secretary-General's efforts. Mr. Nassif said this was a question he could not answer.

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8 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that Addeke H. Boerma, Head of the World Food Programme and newly elected Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, would be leaving New York early tomorrow, 9 January, and would be unable to hold his scheduled press briefing later in the day. However, if the Pledging Conference for the World Food Programme ended early enough today, an ad hoc press briefing would be held this afternoon. In that event, correspondents would be notified through the loud-speaker.

Mr. Powell added that, from now on, the system for notifying correspondents in the Delegates' Lounge would be by paging Earl Foell, the new President of the United Nations Correspondents Association.

Mr. Powell called attention to a background release on a conference, opening today in Geneva, of experts on the inter-dependence of industries in an economy (press release EC/2400); to a statement by the Secretary-General, opening the World Food Programme pledging conference (press release SG/SM/890); and to a document in the regional economic commissions (document E/CN.4/AC.23/5.)

In reply to questions, Ramses Nassif said that no communication had been received from the Government of Yemen and he had no news on other subjects. Asked if the Secretary-General endorsed the appeal of the Head of the Olympic Committee for a cease-fire on all fighting as regards the winter Olympics, Mr. Nassif said, "You've got me there".

To further questions, Mr. Powell said that no information had been received regarding incidents in the Israel-Jordan sector. He noted that the United Nations had no observers there.

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FOR INFORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

9 January 1967

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell informed correspondents at an OPI press briefing this morning that leaflets containing brief summaries of the issues to be discussed at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development were now available at the Documents Counter on the Third Floor.

In response to questions, he stated that he was not aware of the contents of the note left behind by Pierre V. Stula, the United Nations officer who died yesterday at Headquarters. The note was turned over to the New York City Police Department, he said. Mr. Powell also said that he had heard no rumours linking the officer's death with espionage activities. He had heard that there had been domestic difficulties.

Asked whether the Secretary-General had any comments to make on the situation in Laos and Cambodia, Ramses Nassif replied "no".

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10 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell informed correspondents at an OPI press briefing this morning that a press conference with Paul G. Hoffman, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, on the work of the Governing Council of the UNDP which was currently meeting at Headquarters, was tentatively scheduled for 4.30 p.m. today. He stated that an announcement would be made over the loud speaker later today on whether the press conference was still taking place or had been postponed. (It was later announced that the press conference would not take place today and that it is hoped that one can be arranged for tomorrow.)

Mr. Powell read out a letter which the Permanent Representative of Jordan had sent to Secretary-General with the request that it be circulated as a Security Council document. In the letter, Jordan stated that Israel had opened fire on Jordanian positions on 8 January and that one soldier and seven civilians, including a woman, were seriously wounded as a result of the Israeli attacks.

Mr. Powell stated that Gunnar Jarring, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East, who was due in Beirut today, had to go first to Nicosia and is now expected to arrive in Beirut tomorrow.

In response to questions, Ramses Nassif stated that he had no guidance on the substance of the talks which the Secretary-General held, respectively, with the Permanent Representatives of the United Arab Republic and Israel. He promised to check whether the Secretary-General had established contacts with the parties concerned with the question of Viet-Nam.

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11 January 1968

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif announced that the Secretary-General's press conference had been rescheduled again for 10:30 a.m. Thursday, 18 January, in Conference Room 4. Asked the reason for this second change, Mr. Nassif said that the date was more convenient for the Secretary-General. The President of UNCA had been consulted.

William Powell said, in reply to a question asked previously, that the Secretary-General was continuing his conversations on Cyprus. He did not contemplate an immediate report to the Security Council, which had asked him to report "as appropriate".

Asked if the Secretary-General was also holding conversations on Yemen, as indicated by yesterday's appointment with the representative of Yemen and today's appointment with the representative of Saudi Arabia, the latter at the Secretary-General's request, Mr. Nassif said, "Yes, I think we can assume that". However, he could not say anything further on the matter. To further questions, he said there was no United Nations mission in Yemen now.

Mr. Powell said that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme was expected to complete its approvals of projects today. A press release would be issued. Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the Development Programme, planned to hold a press conference at the end of the meetings of the Governing Council, about 24 January.

A ceremony would be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 16 January, in the West Foyer, to mark the issuance of the next United Nations stamp, which would have the Secretariat as its theme. The Secretary-General would speak, and correspondents were invited, he said.

Mr. Nassif said he regretted that he had no answers at this time to questions asked previously regarding the Suez Canal and Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General did not want to make any comments on these matters now. Asked about reports that "Israel has gone back on the agreement" to release the ships blocked in the Suez Canal, Mr. Nassif said he was not denying or confirming these reports. He had nothing to say on the matter. Mr. Powell

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noted that it had been agreed not to say anything regarding the talks held by Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, with the Governments concerned. Mr. Jarring was in Beirut today, he added. No report of substance on Mr. Jarring's mission was expected in the near future.

On Viet-Nam, a correspondent said it seemed that the United States had rejected Hanoi's offer of talks following a cessation of bombing. The correspondent asked if the Secretary-General still stood by his position on the bombing. Mr. Nassif replied yes, the Secretary-General stood by his position on the cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam. In reply to further questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's position was the one originally outlined, containing three points.

In reply to a question as to whether any information had been received regarding a new Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Nassif said that nothing had been received here.

A number of questions were asked regarding the incident yesterday at the Cuban mission, involving H. Rap Brown, National Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee, and a companion, and several New York City policemen.

Mr. Powell said that a note from the Cuban delegation, addressed to the Secretary-General, had been delivered last night to C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General, at his home, about 9:30 p.m. The Secretary-General had today asked C.A. Stavropoulos, United Nations Legal Counsel, to take up the matter with the United States Mission, and in due course a reply would be sent to the Cuban delegation. The text of the Cuban note would not be circulated. The gist of the note was contained in the Cuban delegation press release issued here yesterday.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said that two members of the United Nations security force, Cecil Redman and Warren Holley, had been sent to the Cuban mission about 7:15 p.m., with the approval of the Secretary-General, to extend "such good offices as might be required". They had been in plain clothes. They had been sent "in case any assistance from the Secretariat was needed" in view of the public attention the incident was getting. Neither the Cubans nor, to the best of his knowledge, the United States Mission had requested that they be sent. This was an initiative of the Secretariat.

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They had been sent by David Vaughan, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Office of General Services, with the approval of the Secretary-General. It "seemed prudent" to do so, as the Secretariat inevitably became involved in such matters, and in fact, the Cuban note had been delivered shortly afterward.

Asked if the incident constituted a violation of the Headquarters Agreement by the New York City policemen, Mr. Powell said that, in view of the conflicting accounts of what had happened, he was not in a position to say whether or not there had been a violation of the Headquarters Agreement. No doubt Mr. Stavropoulos was in touch with the United States Mission on all aspects of the matter.

To further questions, Mr. Powell said that the role of United Nations guards was to protect United Nations territory, not missions. This had been "a purely precautionary measure on our part". The two members of the United Nations security force had not been there to guard the Cuban mission or any individuals, nor had they tried to make any independent inquiry. Asked if they had "worked out the deal" whereby Mr. Brown had been able to leave without being arrested, he said he did not think they had been involved in any way. He would check.

12 January 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell listed the Secretary-General's appointments for today, including one for Justin-Marie Bomboko, Foreign Minister of the Congo. Asked why Mr. Bomboko was here, Mr. Powell said he had no information.

Asked whether C.A. Stavropoulos, Legal Counsel, had received a reply from the United States Mission as yet regarding the events at the Cuban Mission on 10 January, Mr. Powell said that no report from Mr. Stavropoulos on his talks with the United States Missions was expected before next week.

Asked when announcement would be made of the new Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Office of Public Information, Mr. Powell said that the announcement would probably be made early next week. He did not know when the new man would be arriving.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, was back in Nicosia from his latest round of talks with the Governments concerned.

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15 January 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, had planned to visit Jerusalem today but had postponed his departure from Nicosia because of bad weather.

Asked if the exchange of prisoners between the United Arab Republic and Israel had been due to Mr. Jarring's efforts, Mr. Powell said that a number of arrangements for the exchange had been made by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had made the announcement regarding the exchange. The subject had been part of the conversations Mr. Jarring had held with the two Governments.

Asked about the absence of the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Republic of Yemen and the People's Republic of Southern Yemen from the list of approved projects for the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Powell said that David Owen, Co-Administrator of the Development Programme, had said in a statement on 12 January to the Governing Council that their absence from the current list did not imply a decision to discontinue technical assistance to them. That was "far from the case". Their absence, rather, reflected uncertainty at the time the projects were considered regarding the effectiveness of technical assistance activities in "countries disturbed by war or civil insecurity". The situation would be kept under review and they would be taken into account in the use of the UNDP planning reserves. An appointment had already been made by the People's Republic of Southern Yemen regarding possible technical assistance and pre-investment advisory services.

Mr. Powell said that a release would be issued today on the appointment of the new Assistant Secretary-General in charge of public information, Agha Abdul Hamid. He would arrive in New York on Friday, 19 January, and would take up his duties next week.

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had seen a report from Saigon criticizing the Secretary-General's efforts regarding Viet-Nam but asking the Secretary-General to visit Southeast Asia. Ramses Nassif said that he had not seen this report.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been informed of reports that Laos had been bombed by planes from North Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had seen the press reports but had no independent information.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

16 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General had read the text of the statement by President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Viet-Nam and planned to accept President Thieu's invitation to him to visit Southeast Asia. Mr. Nassif replied that the Secretary-General had read the press reports this morning of President Thieu's statement and noted the invitation to the Secretary-General to visit Saigon. "While he appreciates this kind gesture", said Mr. Nassif, "the Secretary-General is not in the habit of visiting non-Member States".

To further questions on this point, Mr. Nassif said that this was all he was authorized to say. A correspondent observed that the Secretary-General had visited the Vatican, which he described as a non-Member State. "There's quite a difference", said Mr. Nassif. Why? "The Vatican is the Vatican, that's all", he said. William Powell added, "And the Pope came here". Another correspondent observed that the Secretary-General had visited Switzerland. Mr. Nassif said that this, too, was different. Switzerland was the home and host country of the United Nations European Office.

Asked if the Secretary-General accepted the views stated by President Thieu, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was not making any comment on anything in the statement except the invitation. To further questions, he said that the Secretary-General had not received a formal invitation; he had only read the press reports. To the best of Mr. Nassif's recollection, the Secretary-General had not previously been invited to visit Viet-Nam. He had been requested to send observers to the elections in South Viet-Nam last fall.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the proposal of Michigan's Governor George Romney for the "guaranteed neutralization" of South Viet-Nam and its neighbours, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no comment as such.

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Several of the views expressed by Governor Romney were similar to views expressed by the Secretary-General on more than one occasion in the last year or two. The Secretary-General had advocated neutralization of Southeast Asia, including the two Viet-Nams, he said.

Asked if the United Nations had representatives in Laos, Mr. Powell said that in late 1959 and 1960, the Secretary-General had had a representative there, but not now. There might be some technical assistance experts.

Asked if the Secretary-General had a statement on the latest developments in Laos, Mr. Nassif suggested that the question be asked at the Secretary-General's press conference on Thursday, 18 January.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a statement by the Secretary-General at a ceremony this morning marking the issuance of a new United Nations stamp, on the theme of the Secretariat (press release SG/SM/892).

He then read a statement made this morning to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by David Owen, Co-Administrator of the UNDP, regarding a misconception that had apparently arisen regarding technical assistance to the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Republic of Yemen and the People's Republic of Southern Yemen. Mr. Owen said, referring to a statement he had made on Friday, 12 January, on this subject, that it was far from the case that there was any intention of discontinuing or even reducing aid to the three countries. Accordingly, he was recommending inclusion of the three countries in the regular list of 1969 target figures at the 1968 level. This recommendation had been accepted by the Governing Council, Mr. Powell said.

To correspondents who said that Mr. Owen had obviously changed his mind since last Friday, Mr. Powell said that he would convey their views to Mr. Owen. Mr. Powell then listed the number of technical assistance experts now in South Viet-Nam and Yemen. The 1968 programme would be carried out in any event, he said, and the new figures were intended as a floor, not a ceiling, for aid to the three countries. The two statements made by Mr. Owen would be issued.

Questions continued, and there were requests for a briefing by Mr. Owen himself, who then came to reply to the questions.

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He said that the UNDP believed there should be increased aid to the three countries, "within our means". In order to clarify the misunderstanding, the previous decision to announce the figures only in June had been changed and the announcement made today to put the three countries in the list at the 1968 figures, which were "rather low". They could be added to in June, but it had to be kept in mind that UNDP only had about \$50 million at its disposal for technical assistance projects in more than 100 countries.

Asked if there had been any representations by South Viet-Nam, the United States or others, in addition to the press reports cited by Mr. Owen, as having led to this change, he replied that field representatives of the UNDP in Bangkok, Cairo and elsewhere had raised the matter with him.

To correspondents who said that the OPI press release had used the word "discontinued" in referring to the aid programmes to the three countries, Mr. Owen said he apologized to the Press if it was not responsible for these reports. Several correspondents said this showed the need for preliminary press briefings and for distribution of the texts of statements made on such matters. Mr. Owen said he agreed.

In reply to further questions, he said that, apart from the factor of the obvious needs of the three countries, it was still necessary to consider whether useful work could be done in conditions of insecurity. In such cases, action would be postponed for the time being.

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17 January 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell drew attention to a message from the Secretary-General on the resumption tomorrow, 18 January, of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (press release SG/SM/891-DC/517).

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the remarks of the Hanoi delegate in Paris (who was reported to have said that, after an unconditional cessation of bombing attacks and "other acts of war" by the United States against North Viet-Nam, "the two sides will meet to reach agreement" on the agenda and level of future talks), Ramses Nassif replied:

"These remarks further reinforce U Thant's conviction that if there is a cessation of the bombing of North Viet-Nam, there will be meaningful talks and negotiations".

To further questions on this point, Mr. Nassif observed that the Secretary-General had previously said that the talks would take place "in three to four weeks". There had been nothing to change his position.

In reply to another question, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no comment on the memorandum on Viet-Nam sent to President Johnson by participants in a meeting sponsored in Bermuda last month by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Most of the briefing today was taken up with a discussion of the arrangements for the press conference to be given by the Secretary-General at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow. It was agreed that, for this press conference only, there would be a complete embargo on all publication or other use of the news for approximately half an hour after conclusion of the press conference, until 11:45 a.m. Correspondents could bring tape recorders, but, as before, could not run wires up to the desk. No one would be permitted to leave the press conference before its conclusion.

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At the end of the discussion, the President of UNCA, Earl Foell (Christian Science Monitor), reminded correspondents of the establishment of an UNCA sub-committee on the question of handling of news emanating from press conferences and said that those concerned would "press on for a mutually unsatisfactory solution" to the various problems involved.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

19 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General was giving a luncheon today in farewell to Nikolai T. Fedorenko, Soviet Representative. The guest list would be posted.

He also drew attention to the text of a message from the Secretary-General to a meeting of the Heads of State of the Joint African and Malagasy Organization, opening tomorrow, 20 January, in Niamey, Niger (press release SG/SM/894). The press release is embargoed for 6 a.m. tomorrow.

In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that the matter of the patrol boats and helicopters, proposed by the Secretary-General for use by the United Nations observation mission in the Suez Canal sector, was still under discussion with the Governments concerned. Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Middle East, was back in Nicosia today, conferring with General Odd Bull. Mr. Powell said he had nothing new regarding the removal of ships stranded in the Suez Canal.

Asked about reports from Cairo that the United Arab Republic had asked for a United Nations investigation of the situation in Gaza, Mr. Powell said that a letter had been handed in yesterday asking for an investigation of the treatment of Arabs in Israeli-occupied territory. At the request of the United Arab Republic, it would be issued as a document of both the Security Council and the General Assembly. It would be available sometime this afternoon. At this point, a correspondent complained about "the big lag" between the time a letter was handed in and the time it came out as a document. Mr. Powell replied that delegations could read out the text of their communications, or ask that they be read, or issue them as press releases, but if they did not, the United Nations could not release them until they were sent to all delegations, and, he would point out, there was pressure on the Secretariat to ensure that documents were available simultaneously in two or more languages.

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Asked if the submission of a non-proliferation treaty by the United States and the Soviet Union yesterday to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva would change the schedule for resumption of the General Assembly, Mr. Powell said that Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee had been asked to report by 15 March. He did not know if it would do so earlier than that. The terms of the treaty were now under discussion.

Ramses Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the proposal by Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin that the Secretary-General make an annual "State of Mankind" address. Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Asked if the Secretary-General planned any trips in the near future, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General would go to New Delhi towards the end of this month to open the second UNCTAD conference on 1 February. In reply to further questions, Mr. Nassif said he was not aware of any other trips planned by the Secretary-General. He would check about the postponed trips to Japan and the Philippines.

Asked about reports in the Dutch press to the effect that there were moves in Jakarta to get the United Nations to take over the administration of West Irian, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

In reply to other questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had not received any reaction from Governments to his observations on Viet-Nam at his press conference. Nothing had been received from Cambodia about alleged incursions.

Mr. Powell said, in reply to a question, that he had no information on a reported request from Greece and Turkey for "more supervision in Cyprus".

In reply to other questions, Mr. Powell said that Agha Abdul Hamid, the new Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Office of Public Information, had taken up his duties this morning, and had attended the weekly meeting of the Secretary-General with the Under-Secretaries-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General. A request was made that Mr. Hamid come to meet with the correspondents. Mr. Powell said that he would relay the request.

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22 January 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said, in reply to a question, that the Secretary-General would leave for New Delhi on 29 January to open the second UNCTAD conference on 1 February, and would return to New York on 3 or 4 February. Details of his travel plans would be announced on Friday, 26 January.

? In reply to further questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General's plane would stop in Rome on the return trip. He had no immediate plans to make his postponed visit to the Philippines and Japan, and no plans to visit the Middle East at this time.

Asked if there were any plans for Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, to return to New York for consultations, William Powell noted that the Secretary-General had stated in his report last week (document S/8309/Add.1) that Mr. Jarring was in regular communication with him, was keeping him fully informed, and saw no need to return to New York at this stage of this mission. Mr. Jarring was in Amman today, added Mr. Powell.

In reply to a question, Mr. Powell said there was "nothing from our side" on the clearing of the Suez Canal.

Mr. Powell recalled that a question had been asked previously about reports in the Dutch Press to the effect that there were moves in Jakarta to get the United Nations to take over the administration of West Irian. Mr. Powell said that no such information had been received here and that there had been no approaches from the Indonesian Government on the matter.

He then said that the UNESCO liaison office had arranged a briefing tomorrow, 23 January, following the regular OPI briefing, for Richard Hudson, Vice-President of the National Educational Television Network, who had just returned from India where he was one of a five-member team assigned by UNESCO to study the planning and uses of a synchronous satellite for education, ~~mass~~ communication and rural development.

Asked if the paths of the Secretary-General and Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin would cross in New Delhi, Mr. Nassif said that he did not have the dates of Premier Kosygin's visit there.

A correspondent observed that the Secretary-General had had several meetings lately, and was having one today, with Bohdan Tomorowicz (Poland), and asked what these meetings were about. Mr. Nassif said he did ^{NOT} know the subject. The appointments had been arranged at the Ambassador's request. Asked if the subject could be the International Control Commission, Mr. Nassif said he did not have the slightest notion.

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Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on his meeting with Maharishim Mahesh Yoga on Saturday, 20 January, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had had "a rewarding and interesting talk with the holy man".

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23 January 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced today's appointments of the Secretary-General; the death of Mr. Arthur ^{SILVERTER}~~Green~~ and the funeral arrangements in Washington; and that a meeting would be held on Friday of the Apartheid Committee to hear Archbishop Crowther, formerly of South Africa. He also announced the release of the complete report of the world social situation.

Replying to questions, Mr. Powell said that the United Nations had not supervised the exchange of prisoners in the Middle East and could thus not confirm reports that it was completed.

Ramses Nassif corrected his announcement of yesterday, and said that the Secretary-General's flight would stop in Rome on his way to Delhi and not on his way back to New York as stated yesterday. To questions whether the Secretary-General would meet the Pope, Mr. Nassif said that there were no plans for such a meeting.

To a question whether the Secretary-General regarded the Nanh Dan article on President Johnson's State of the Union message as a rejection, Mr. Nassif recalled that the Secretary-General had said at his Press Conference that he would not comment on President Johnson's message, and that he would not comment on the reactions either. To further questions on the subject, he said that there was nothing to be added to what the Secretary-General had said on Viet-Nam at his Press Conference. He confirmed that the Secretary-General had seen the Felix Greene film on North Viet-Nam.

Mr. Powell said that no report had been received of the latest Korean incidents.

Following the regular briefing, Mr. Richard Hudson, a member of a UNESCO mission which studied possibilities of satellite communications in India, reported on the mission and replied to questions.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

24 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said, in reply to a question about the appointment this morning of Arthur Goldberg, United States representative, with the Secretary-General:

"Ambassador Goldberg renewed to the Secretary-General the expression of his Government's concern about the Pueblo incident and provided him with further information."

(According to press reports, the Pueblo, a United States Navy vessel, was seized by North Korean patrol boats off Wonsan yesterday and the vessel and its 83 crew members taken into the North Korean port.)

Mr. Nassif said that, following the appointment, he had been asked if the Secretary-General was doing anything about the matter. To this, he replied:

"No request has yet been made for the Secretary-General's good offices in this regard."

Asked if this reply meant that the Secretary-General was prepared to intervene, Mr. Nassif said this was all he was authorized to say. To questions as to whether the Secretary-General anticipated a request for his good offices and whether the Secretary-General had asked the United States if this would be a suitable time for representatives of North Korea to come here, William Powell said, "Wait until if and when there is a request".

In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said that neither the Secretary-General nor the Military Staff Committee had received any information on the matter from the United Nations Command in Korea. The last report from the Command, addressed to the President of the Security Council, had come in November 1967 (document S/8217). Nor had any information on the matter been received from the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, which had a secretariat in Seoul.

Asked if the Secretary-General was concerned about the Pueblo incident, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not want to make any comment at

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this time. Asked if the possibility of a Security Council meeting had been discussed, Mr. Nassif said this was all he was authorized to say. A correspondent remarked that it seemed odd that there was no hint of a Security Council meeting when there was an apparent threat to the peace. Mr. Nassif said he could not go beyond what he had said. Asked if the Secretary-General "intends to do anything on his own", Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Asked if the discussion this morning had included the possibility that the Secretary-General's good offices might be requested, Mr. Nassif said he could not answer the question. Asked if there had ever been direct contact between the Secretary-General and the North Koreans, Mr. Nassif said, "Not to my knowledge".

Asked if the Pueblo had been operating under the United Nations Command, Mr. Powell said the question should be directed to the United States Mission, as the United States Government was responsible, under the Security Council's resolution of 7 July 1950, for ~~the Command~~. The United Nations had no other sources of information. Asked if the Secretary-General had found out whether the Pueblo had been flying the United Nations flag, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. Asked if the United Nations Command did fly the flag, Mr. Powell said it was authorized to do so by the Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950.

Asked if anything could be done to determine where the incident took place, in view of discrepancies in the various accounts, Mr. Nassif said, "I don't think it is within our power, frankly". Asked if instructions had been sent to the United Nations Commission in Seoul, Mr. Powell said no.

Asked what information Ambassador Goldberg had provided, Mr. Nassif replied that the question should be addressed to the United States delegation. A correspondent complained that it seemed to be a sort of game: "We ask Goldberg and he says we should ask the Secretary-General; we ask the Secretary-General and he says we should ask Goldberg".

Asked if the information from Mr. Goldberg had come under the Security Council resolution, Mr. Powell said this also was a question for Mr. Goldberg. However, the resolution called for reports to the Security Council and not to the Secretary-General. This had been a discussion. ~~Nothing~~ had been submitted in writing.

Asked if more information might be provided today, and if advance notice could be given of any more appointments by Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Powell said, "We will do our best".

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On other matters, Mr. Nassif said, in reply to a question, that the representative of Lebanon had left a letter on the Middle East with the Secretary-General this morning, to be circulated as a document. Also on the Middle East, Mr. Powell said, in reply to a question, that the assignments of Ernesto Thalmann and Nils-Goran Gussing in the area had been completed.

To other questions, Mr. Powell said that no request for a Security Council meeting on South West Africa had been received so far, although there were indications that there might be a request later today. The appointments of the representatives of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands with the Secretary-General today related to an invitation they had extended to him to visit their countries sometime during 1968. Paul Hoffman, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, would make his closing statement to the Governing Council tomorrow morning, 25 January. An advance text would be issued today, embargoed until the time of delivery.

Mr. Powell drew attention to background releases issued on the forthcoming sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the new Commission on International Trade Law.

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25 January 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced the speakers this afternoon in the Security Council and two appointments of the Secretary-General, both at the request of the respective Ambassadors.

Ramses Nassif announced that the Secretary-General was going to Madison, Wisconsin this Saturday to receive a honorary law degree at the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Nassif also announced the Secretary-General's itinerary for his trip to India. He said that the Secretary-General did not plan to make any statement to the press at any point of his trip, and in reply to a question, that he had no plans to meet Mr. Kosygin in New Delhi or Mr. Wilson in London.

Mr. Nassif also said, in reply to a question, concerning the Korean situation that the Secretary-General was planning to leave for India as scheduled.

Mr. Powell and Mr. Nassif then replied to a series of question concerning the Pueblo incident.

Mr. Powell said that questions whether the Pueblo was flying the United Nations flag should be addressed to the United States Mission. To a question whether the term "United Nations Command" was "banned" in the United Nations Secretariat, he said that when referring to the "Unified Command" he was using the terminology of the 1950 Security Council resolution. The term "United Nations Command" had been used by General McArthur subsequently.

Mr. Nassif promised that he would try to check whether the Secretary-General was planning any comment in view of reports that planes flying the United Nations flag were carrying nuclear weapons. Mr. Powell said that planes usually do not fly any flag.

Mr. Nassif replied in the affirmative when asked whether it was correct that the Secretary-General was not planning any personal initiative in the Korean situation. To a question whether the Secretary-General would not consider an initiative similar to that by Mr. Hammarskjold in connection with the prisoners in China, Mr. Powell pointed out that Mr. Hammarskjold had acted upon a General Assembly resolution and that there was no such resolution in

(more)

the present situation. To a remark that Mr. Hammarskjold had assured the Chinese that he was acting on his own, Mr. Powell remarked that a General Assembly resolution had requested him to use his good offices in securing the release of the flyers.

The two spokesmen were also asked whether the Secretary-General was planning to investigate to what extent the United Nations was involved in the situation, perhaps through the office of the Legal Counsel. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no means to investigate and Mr. Powell stated that the only people who could define the status of the ship were the United States authorities.

To a question whether the United Nations was satisfied that it was not involved, Mr. Powell replied in the affirmative and added that no request for any action had been made. He replied "no" when asked whether the Secretary-General had anything to say on the Pueblo incident and whether he intended any action on his own. Mr. Nassif promised to try to obtain a statement by the Secretary-General today in reply to the question whether the Secretary-General was seeing in the situation a threat to peace, and also his reaction to the mobilization of certain reserves by the United States.

Mr. Powell then repeated, in reply to further questions, that the term "Unified Command" was being used in the United Nations because of the 1950 resolution. This was the appropriate term for United Nations Staff Members to use. Later, he explained, the "United Nations Command" had been established by General McArthur's Far East Command and the responsibility for the Unified Command had been entrusted to the United States which was requested to report to the Security Council as it deemed appropriate.

To questions concerning the press reports on an agreement on the removal of the ships from the Suez Canal, Mr. Powell replied that this could not be officially confirmed since the Secretary-General was awaiting a report on General Bull's conversations with General Dyan yesterday. The role of UNTSO, he pointed out, would be to see that the cease fire was observed and that neither side obtains a military advantage during the clearance work. UNTSO would not carry out the clearance operation itself. He also said that the strengthening of the observers in terms of boats and helicopters in the Suez Sector was still under discussion.

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Announced at 1:00 p.m. by a United Nations spokesman

On all the questions raised at the briefing today for replies from the Secretary-General, I am authorized to say that he does not repeat not wish to make any comment at this time. On another matter, the Secretary-General has been officially informed by the United States Government that the Pueblo was flying the United States flag.

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26 January 1968

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, William Powell listed the Secretary-General's appointments, including one at his request, with the representative of Israel, on the Middle East. The other appointments, with the representatives of India and Algeria, were at the request of the respective ambassadors. Originally, it was stated that the appointment with the representative of India was at the Secretary-General's request, to discuss the Secretary-General's planned trip to New Delhi to open the second UNCTAD conference on 1 February, but this was later corrected. In addition, the President of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations was paying a courtesy call on the Secretary-General today.

Mr. Powell said he had nothing to say regarding this afternoon's Security Council meeting. The provisional agenda would include the letter from the United States requesting the meeting on the North Korean action against a United States naval vessel. The only speaker listed so far was the representative of the United States.

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General, to his regret, had had to cancel his planned trip to Madison, Wisconsin, where he was to receive an honorary degree tomorrow, 27 January. Asked why the trip was being cancelled, Ramses Nassif said that it was "because of the developments and the Security Council meeting". Asked if the cancellation meant that the Secretary-General expected a further meeting of the Council tomorrow, Mr. Nassif asked if the questioner really thought that the matter would be finished this afternoon. In reply to further questions on this point, Mr. Powell said that the Secretariat planned for any eventuality and had duty rosters for Saturday and Sunday.

One correspondent asked if the Secretary-General "might be called upon to play some personal role" in this matter, and another asked if there was any likelihood that he might be called upon to go to Korea. Mr. Powell said he could not anticipate what the Security Council might or might not request the Secretary-General to do.

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Asked about the Secretary-General's trip to New Delhi, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General would issue a statement later this afternoon. Asked if it could be assumed that the Secretary-General was changing his plans, Mr. Nassif said he could not say anything now.

To further questions, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not have anything to say on the Korean question and that it would be improper for him to do so, since the matter was now before the Council.

Asked if the Secretary-General considered the Security Council to be seized with the Korean matter, Mr. Powell pointed out that on 31 January 1951, on a proposal by the United Kingdom, the Security Council had voted to remove the matter from its agenda as it was then in the hands of the General Assembly.

A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Trans-Radio) then asked how there could be a United Nations Command in Korea. Mr. Powell replied that the Security Council had not taken any action to change the 7 July 1950 resolution establishing the Unified Command under the United States and requesting the United States to report to the Council on developments. Mr. Powell read the text of the resolution, which he described as "open-ended". The last report from the Unified Command had come in November 1967.

Mr. Gabriel replied that this was "a technicality" and that Mr. Powell had only given his interpretation of the situation. Mr. Powell observed that the Security Council had accepted the reports of the Unified Command. Mr. Gabriel then said that this was the same way as it accepted reports on credentials or anything transmitted to it. Mr. Powell said that if the Security Council, in its wisdom, wished to change the situation, he was sure it would do so.

To further questions, Mr. Powell said that a representative of South Korea had participated in the Council's discussions in 1950. As for North Korea, there had been a proposal in 1950 -- by the Soviet Union, he said in reply to a question -- that representatives of North Korea be invited to come here, but the proposal had not been adopted.

Mr. Powell also said, in reply to questions, that the United Nations had no information on the present composition of forces in the Unified Command, as the United States had not conveyed any information on that point in recent years. The signing of the Armistice Agreements had been

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reported to the United Nations by the Unified Command and had been referred to in subsequent resolutions such as one adopted by the General Assembly in 1954, requesting the Secretary-General to assist in the release of the United States fliers then being held prisoners in Mainland China. The United Nations Commission on the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) had not reported on the recent developments. That was not its function. Asked about the size of the operation there, Mr. Powell said that there were governmental representatives to UNCURK and a very small Secretariat staff.

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on "the threatened use of nuclear weapons under the United Nations flag". Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had no comment.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General would issue a brief report today on an outbreak of firing yesterday at the southern end of the Suez Canal. A cease-fire had been arranged and was holding. Asked if the report asked of the Secretary-General regarding the credentials of members of the Security Council would be ready for the Council this afternoon, he said he did not know when it would be ready. It was being worked on. He had no time-table. Asked if the appointment of the representative of Algeria, who had raised the point in the Council, related to this matter, he said he did not know.

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29 January 1968

Ramsey
briefed

N/A *cm*

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NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the only appointment listed so far for the Secretary-General was with the representative of the United Arab Republic, on the Middle East.

Also on the Middle East, Mr. Powell said, in reply to questions, that he had no information regarding press reports of agreements between Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, and the parties, relating to the clearing of the Suez Canal. Mr. Jarring was in Cyprus today and had no plans for further visits to the capitals in the next few days.

Asked for comment on the cancellation of the Tet truce in Viet-Nam, Ramses Nassif said he would check.

In reply to a question about the Secretary-General's trip to New Delhi, Mr. Nassif said an announcement had been made on Friday, 26 January, that the trip was being cancelled. The Secretary-General was to have left this morning to open the second UNCTAD conference on 1 February. His statement would be released here as a message to the conference.

C.V.
Asked about possible postponement of the Security Council meeting scheduled for this afternoon on Korea, Mr. Powell said that, as of now, it was still on.

Asked if the Secretary-General had been participating in the informal discussions on the matter before the Council, Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to say, he just did not know. To a question as to whether the Secretary-General had been in telephonic communication with the President of the Council or with the permanent members of the Council, Mr. Nassif gave the same reply. Asked if he would check, he said he would try to, but could not promise an answer.

A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Trans-Radio) then remarked that these answers were insufficient. The consultations were open, after all. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not want to say anything, and that was his privilege. Mr. Gabriel, continuing, said it was his privilege, too, to try to get an answer. The Secretary-General might be expected to play a role in this

(more)

matter. All that was being asked was whether he was in touch with the countries concerned. This was "a simple and innocent question". Mr. Nassif repeated that he would try to get an answer, but would not promise anything.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a message from the Secretary-General on the independence of Nauru, embargoed for 6:30 p.m. today, and to the Secretary-General's report on the practice of the Security Council regarding the credentials of its members (document S/8365 and Corr.1). He also drew attention to a report containing supplemental information from General Odd Bull on the recent incident at the southern end of the Suez Canal (document S/7930/Add.62).

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30 January 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said, in reply to questions about the outbreak of firing on the Suez Canal this morning, that several messages had been received so far from General Odd Bull. A complete report would be issued, probably not before tomorrow, 31 January, because information from General Bull was still coming in. This had been a serious exchange of fire. According to the latest reports received, there was "an uneasy cease-fire", broken by occasional firing. According to incomplete information, a Canal Authority boat had attempted to take a survey of the northern part of the Canal, and the firing had resulted, spreading from the northern entrance to the Great Bitter Lake up to Kantara.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said his understanding was that this was a survey operation, not a clearing operation. A survey of the southern part of the Canal had been made a few days ago without incident. Asked for the provisions of the agreement relating to the clearing of the Canal, he said he assumed that this would be included in the Secretary-General's report.

On other matters, Mr. Powell said he had nothing to say now regarding a meeting of the Security Council. As the President of the Council, Agha Shahi (Pakistan), had stated yesterday, consultations were continuing with members of the Council. The Council President was meeting with the non-permanent members this morning.

A correspondent noted that Brajesh C. Mishra (India) was listed again today for an appointment with the Secretary-General, and asked if these appointments related to the Secretary-General's trip to New Delhi, which had been cancelled. Ramses Nassif replied that both appointments had been arranged at Mr. Mishra's request. Asked if the Secretary-General had received any messages from New Delhi regarding the trip, Mr. Nassif said yes, he had received a cable yesterday, signed by Paul Jolles, a Swiss delegate to the second UNCTAD

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conference, as President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD. Mr. Jolles had appealed to the Secretary-General, on behalf of the delegates, to reconsider his cancellation of the trip. Mr. Nassif then read the following statement:

"The Secretary-General, of course, fully realizes the very great importance of the second UNCTAD conference, which opens in New Delhi on 1 February, and he would very much like to address it, but as long as the Security Council is actively seized of the Korean item he is unable to leave New York."

Asked for comment on the cancellation of the Tet truce in Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif read the following statement:

"The Secretary-General has repeatedly expressed himself in favour of all truces in Viet-Nam, irrespectively of their duration, and consequently he deeply regrets that the Tet truce is no longer being observed."

Asked about press reports of a new offer by the United States to North Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General was not aware of any.

A correspondent (Mr. Gabriel, Trans-Radio) recalled that he had asked yesterday if the Secretary-General was in some way involved in the current talks on Korea. All through the day yesterday, the President of the Security Council had been in contact with the Secretary-General, yesterday. It would appear that the Secretary-General was a part of the current talks. Could light be shed on this matter? Mr. Nassif replied that the President of the Council had seen the Secretary-General about 7:40 p.m. yesterday, for about 45 minutes, and had briefed him on the results of the informal consultations and discussions.

A further question was asked by Mr. Gabriel as to who would issue an invitation to North Viet-Nam -- or to North Korea. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General would, if there was a decision to that effect by the Security Council.

Mr. Powell informed correspondents that the embargo on the report on the World Social Situation, and the accompanying press release, had been lifted.

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31 January 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Caesar Ortiz-Tinoco said that the non-permanent members of the Security Council had met this morning and that the Afro-Asian members were currently meeting and were expected to continue their consultations until lunch time. A decision on what would happen in the afternoon would depend on the results of these consultations.

A complete report on the incidents at the Suez Canal would be out tomorrow morning, he said, adding that General Odd Bull had returned to Jerusalem and, as had been reported yesterday, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's representative in the Middle East was in Cairo.

He said that the Secretary-General would address the opening of the Special Committee of 24 tomorrow at 3 p.m., and he called attention to the Economic and Social Information Unit feature #39, out today, on copper deposit identified in Iran, and to background releases due out today on the Commission for Social Development and the Human Rights Commission, both of which are scheduled to begin their session in New York on Monday.

In response to correspondents' questions, he said that OPI would receive a daily cable from New Delhi on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development session, which opens there tomorrow, and would issue a daily press release on it. Phillipe de Seynes, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs would read a message from the Secretary-General at the opening of the Conference. A copy of this message would be issued today but would be embargoed for midnight tonight. Answering further questions, he said there would be no other statement or message from the Secretary-General to the opening of the Conference.

Arrangements for the clearance of parts of the Suez Canal *now made with General Bull* ~~had been~~ ~~carried out by General Bull~~, he said in response to another question, adding that all aspects of the situation would be dealt with in the 12-page report due out tomorrow. He did not know if the Secretary-General would comment on the report, he said.

(more)

Ambassador Arthur Goldberg (United States) saw the Secretary-General for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours yesterday and informed him of the United States' assessment of the consultations regarding Korea, Ramses Nassif said, answering other questions. Viet-Nam had not come up in the meeting as far as he knew. The Secretary-General did not plan to issue any comment today on any aspect of the situation in Viet-Nam, including the events in Saigon, he said.

Asked if the Secretary-General had gotten the impression that the United States might resort to unilateral force in Korea, he said he could not comment.

The Secretary-General's statement yesterday expressing his deep regret at the non-observance of the Tet Truce in Viet-Nam was issued only in the context of the non-observance of the Truce, and the Secretary-General did not plan to issue a statement on Viet-Nam today, Mr. Nassif said, answering other questions on yesterday's meeting between Ambassador Goldberg and the Secretary-General.

The President of the Security Council, Agha Shahi (Pakistan) was briefing the Secretary-General on the consultations yesterday and today, but the Secretary-General did not expect a report per se on them, he said.

Mr. Ortiz drew correspondents attention to the fact that tomorrow Miguel Solano Lopez (Paraguay) will succeed Mr. Shahi as President of the Security Council.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

1 February 1968

UNITED STATES PRESS BRIEFING

G. Richard Monsen, of the United States delegation, met correspondents at 12:55 p.m. and read out the text of the following statement, which he said had been issued by a State Department spokesman in Washington a few minutes earlier:

"We have noted the press report of a statement in Pyongyang by a high official of the North Korean Communist Party that North Korea will not use the United Nations to deal with the Pueblo problem, but is prepared to use the machinery of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom. The United States is prepared to deal with this matter through this channel."

Asked if this meant the end of the United States application to the Security Council, he said, "I would not think so. We are still considering the Afro-Asian proposal. We are still continuing consultations with the President of the Council and members of the Council."

Asked if talks were underway now at Panmunjom, he said that two public statements had been made: one by the North Koreans yesterday, and this one by the United States, which was a public response to it. Whether this would result in a meeting, he could not say.

Asked if it could be construed that the Security Council would remain seized of the matter, pending what happened at Panmunjom, while consideration of the matter was suspended, he said that the Council would remain seized of it. He did not know what would happen now. As he had stated, consultations were continuing. The United States was considering the Afro-Asian proposal. Mr. Goldberg had said that the United States would make a response "in due course". Several correspondents remarked at this point that Mr. Goldberg had said the response would be made today. Mr. Monsen said he did not know when it would be made.

(more)

Asked if anyone had asked for a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission, or if the United States was sending anyone from Washington to Panmunjom, he said he did not know.

A correspondent said that some Council members had indicated that North Korea was willing to come here and to discuss the Pueblo here. Mr. Monsen said he had heard rumours but did not know if they were true. The correspondent asked if these were regarded as only rumours, inasmuch as Mr. Morozov, the Soviet representative, had made statements to that effect. Mr. Monsen said the correspondent should check with the Soviet delegation.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

1 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on incidents and developments relating to the evacuation of the stranded ships in the Suez Canal (document S/7930/Add.63).

In reply to questions on the Middle East, Mr. Ortiz said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, was due in Jerusalem today and that General Odd Bull was also in Jerusalem. There were no reports of firing in the Suez Canal sector today. The operation for clearing the Canal was still off, he said. Several correspondents asked for information regarding the survey in the southern part of the Canal and for a map of the area showing the United Nations observation posts.

Asked for comment on the United Arab Republic letter (document S/8373-A/7048) on "acts of terrorism practiced by the Israel authorities" against the civilian population in the occupied territories, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had received the letter only last night and had not had time to study it. Asked for the Secretary-General's reaction to the earlier letter from Lebanon on the same subject, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

On Korea, Mr. Ortiz said that the new President of the Security Council, Miguel Solano Lopez (Paraguay), had told him a short time ago that the situation remained exactly as it was last night when the outgoing President, Agha Shahi (Pakistan), had talked to correspondents. The President was awaiting reaction to the exploratory ideas outlined last night by Mr. Shahi (according to which the five African-Asian members of the Security Council would be authorized on an informal basis by the Council to go to Geneva to hold conversations with North Korean representatives on the matter).

Asked if the Secretary-General was also awaiting a response on Korea, Mr. Nassif said he could not answer that question.

(more)

A correspondent asked Mr. Ortiz to check with the new President of the Council as to whether it was true that the United States representative, Mr. Goldberg, had told him and Mr. Shahi that the United States wanted Council members to suspend their activities while other methods were pursued and that the efforts were now in a state of suspended animation. Mr. Ortiz said he would be happy to assist correspondents by asking the question.

Mr. Nassif said, in anticipation of questions on Viet-Nam, that the Secretary-General did not wish to say anything on that subject at this time. He was considering issuing a statement "at the appropriate time". Asked when that might be, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. He would check with the Secretary-General as to whether the statement might be made on the weekend.

Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was giving a small private luncheon today in honour of Mrs. John F. Kennedy. The other guests were Princess Bon Campagni, a personal friend of Mr. Kennedy; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goldberg; Senator Robert F. Kennedy; Mr. and Mrs. Tin Myint U, the Secretary-General's son-in-law and daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Bunche.

Mr. Ortiz said that a press release would be issued regarding the opening of the Second UNCTAD conference today in New Delhi. He read part of the cable received from there.

The Secretary-General would open this afternoon's meeting of the Committee of 24, on the ending of colonialism, and a text of his statement would be issued, said Mr. Ortiz.

He drew attention to a message from the Secretary-General to the dedication tomorrow of the United Nations-sponsored international rocket launching facilities in Thumba, India.

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2 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz announced the Secretary-General's appointments for today and the release, early in the afternoon, of a statement by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

Ramses Nassif then replied to an earlier query concerning the de Ribbing mission. He said that Cambodia had informed the Secretary-General last month that, while it appreciated the efforts of the mission, it was unable to agree to its extension. Thailand, at about the same time, had agreed to the extension. Consequently, the Secretary-General had informed both sides on 31 January 1968 that in the absence of continued agreement of the two Governments he was not in a position to prolong the mission and would terminate it by 15 February.

Mr. Nassif added that the mission had begun on 16 August 1966 and that the Secretary-General would submit a full report on it to the Security Council by 15 February.

Also in reply to a query yesterday, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General would make a statement on Viet-Nam "at an appropriate time" but that this would not be tomorrow.

He said he would check whether the Secretary-General intended to do anything about the violation of the Geneva Conventions on prisoners (in Viet-Nam) as shown today in a New York paper.

Mr. Ortiz said that the President of the Security Council was not now in a position to say anything regarding the development of the Pueblo issue. As to a suggestion that the President was no longer holding consultations, Mr. Ortiz said that this was not correct. The President had seen the representative of Hungary. But, he added, there was nothing which could be said at this moment.

Mr. Ortiz said, in reply to further questions, that nothing could be said regarding the deployment of boats and helicopters in the Suez Canal area and that the clearing operations in the Canal were now off. He also said that the United Arab Republic and Lebanese complaints were still under consideration.

Mr. Nassif, in reply to a question what role the Secretary-General intended to play in getting North Korea and the United States together at Panmunjon, said that the Secretary-General did not want to say anything at all on this subject.

On the Cambodia-Thailand dispute, Mr. Nassif said that he did not know whether the Secretary-General had asked Cambodia to reconsider its attitude to the de Ribbing mission. As to the reason for the termination of the mission, he said that it was caused by the fact that one party refused to have the mission continue. He did not know why Cambodia had taken this attitude.

(more)

Mr. Nassif said he did not know whether the Secretary-General was preparing a report on Cyprus.

As to the Secretary-General's trip to India, Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General was considering this possibility but had not yet reached a decision. He hoped to do this by Monday.

To a question whether the Panmunjon meetings were bilateral or under the United Nations, Mr. Nassif said that he did not have the slightest idea. To a request that he find out whether the United Nations flag was flown at Panmunjon, Mr. Nassif asked, "From whom?".

After the regular Press briefing, Marc Schreiber informed correspondents about the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Rights.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

5 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said that an announcement would be made at 3 p.m. today regarding the Secretary-General's travel plans.

Asked for comment on developments in Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that any comment would have to wait until the Secretary-General considered it an appropriate time for a statement. The Secretary-General did not want to "react piecemeal". Asked if the "appropriate time" would be after the Secretary-General's trip, Mr. Nassif said he did not know; it would not be in the next three or four days.

Asked if it could be assumed that, in arranging this trip, the Secretary-General considered that "the crisis is over", Mr. Nassif said he had never said that. The Secretary-General was making a trip, and all details would be available this afternoon.

To a question about the present situation regarding the report prepared by the Secretary-General's expert group on the effects of nuclear weapons, César Ortiz said that it would be printed as a United Nations publication in the five official languages, and in digest form as an OPI pamphlet in about 11 languages.

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6 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, Cesar Ortiz drew attention to a press release regarding the Secretary-General's plan to visit Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in April, at the invitation of those Governments, following the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to be held in Geneva on 4 and 5 April (press release SG/T/171).

Asked if the Secretary-General had any plans to go to Washington, Ramses Nassif said he did not know. In reply to a question asked previously regarding the Moscow portion of the trip the Secretary-General was beginning today, Mr. Nassif gave the following background information: While Soviet Chairman Aleksei Kosygin was in India, he heard that the Secretary-General was coming there and expressed the wish to meet with him. A breakfast meeting had been arranged for 31 January in New Delhi. As the Secretary-General's trip at that time had been cancelled, the forthcoming meeting in Moscow had been arranged at the Secretary-General's request, and the Soviet Union had said he would be most welcome to come.

Mr. Nassif said that on his current trip the Secretary-General was not planning to make any statements to the Press anywhere he went, nor would he make a statement here before leaving this evening.

Asked about the Secretary-General's statement on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that "the appropriate time" was not now.

A correspondent asked if the Secretary-General or any high official of, say, UNESCO would comment on the fact that the city of Hue, in Viet-Nam, which the correspondent said had been respected by the French during the Indo-China war, was now being destroyed, despite its historic monuments. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General did not wish to make any comment at this time. Mr. Ortiz said that the request could be relayed to UNESCO, which was directly concerned with historic monuments and their protection.

Asked what the Secretary-General intended to do about the appeal circulated yesterday by the Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam to the United Nations for aid to the civilian victims of the current fighting, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

(more)

He gave the same reply to a question as to whether the Secretary-General had knowledge of any agreement for the release of the crew of the United States ship Pueblo.

Asked about a report on the deRibbing mission to Cambodia and Thailand, Mr. Nassif said it would be issued before 15 February.

Asked if the Secretary-General's plan to be in Europe during April indicated that the General Assembly would not be meeting at that time, Mr. Nassif said he had no guidance as to the probable dates of the resumed session. He said he would check.

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7 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, Ramses Nassif said that the Secretary-General had arrived in Geneva on schedule and would be leaving there shortly for New Delhi. He had been in touch with Headquarters by telephone.

Cesar Ortiz said that the text of the statement the Secretary-General would make in New Delhi at the UNCTAD conference would be issued tomorrow, 8 February, embargoed for midnight tomorrow, New York time.

Mr. Nassif said, in reply to a question asked previously, that there was absolutely no clue yet as to the date of the resumed session of the General Assembly. It was a matter for the President of the Assembly to decide, through consultations with members, and he was in touch with the situation. Asked if there was any indication that the report on the disarmament talks in Geneva might come earlier than expected, Mr. Nassif said, not for attribution, that there was no guarantee whatsoever that that would happen.

Asked for comment on the reports today that the International Control Commission in Cambodia had decided to act on specific complaints of violations of the country's territorial integrity, Mr. Nassif said he was not in a position to answer the question. Asked if the Secretary-General had been informed about contacts between the United States and North Viet-Nam, he said he had no information.

A correspondent asked if "anything is known here about the negotiations now taking place between Turkey and Greece on Cyprus". Mr. Ortiz said he would check. Asked about the Secretary-General's good offices on Cyprus, Mr. Nassif said that they were continuing and the Secretary-General would report in due course to the Security Council.

With regard to Korea, a correspondent asked where at Panmunjom the negotiations between the United States and North Korea were taking place and "under what flag". Mr. Nassif said he had absolutely nothing to say on this subject and, yes, he had checked. Asked if any reports had been received from the Unified Command on the matter, he said, "Not to my knowledge". Asked for details about the way the meetings at Panmunjom took place, Mr. Ortiz replied, "Have you asked one of the parties more directly concerned?" The correspondent said, "Yes, the United Nations. Its your flag". Mr. Ortiz agreed to a request that he ask the President of the Security Council about the current situation regarding the Council on this matter.

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8 February 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that no cable had been received as yet from New Delhi on the Secretary-General's arrival there. The text of the statement the Secretary-General would make to the UNCTAD Conference had been issued, embargoed for 0500 hours GMT tomorrow, 9 February (press release SG/SM/904).

Mr. Powell said that there was nothing new from Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East. Asked if Mr. Jarring was trying to do anything about the stranded ships in the Suez Canal, a matter which now seemed to be at "a dead halt", Mr. Powell said he was sure this was one of the matters Mr. Jarring was taking up with the Governments concerned. Asked about the role of General Odd Bull in the matter, he said that General Bull was handling the operational details, as part of the maintenance of the cease-fire, but that Mr. Jarring was conducting the conversations at the diplomatic level. Asked about the patrol boats and helicopters proposed for use by the United Nations observers, Mr. Powell said that the matter was still under consideration.

Ramses Nassif said, in reply to a question, that Prime Minister Harold Wilson of the United Kingdom had planned to come to the United Nations tomorrow but had changed his plans because the Secretary-General would not be here. The Secretary-General would see him in London.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

9 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz drew the correspondents' attention to a press release on the Secretary-General's meeting with the Consul-General of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam in New Delhi. The Secretary-General, he said, met the Consul-General in his personal capacity and the talks were "useful".

He also announced that Mr. Jarring is back in Nicosia and will go to Jerusalem on Sunday.

Replying to questions, Mr. Ortiz said that he had not heard anything about Mr. Jarring coming to Headquarters. Ramses Nassif said that Foreign Minister Waldheim of Austria, to his knowledge, was coming to New York where he was to call on the Secretary-General on Monday but that, in view of the Secretary-General's absence, he did not know what the Minister's plans were.

Mr. Ortiz said he did not know whether the Secretary-General had seen representatives of the National Liberation Front of Viet-Nam in New Delhi.

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12 February 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that, according to press reports, the Secretary-General had left Moscow for London. He would be seeing Prime Minister Harold Wilson there, and would return to New York at 8:10 p.m. tomorrow, 13 February, on Pan American Flight No. 1. As of now, he had no intention of saying anything on his arrival, and there would be no need for correspondents to go out to the airport. However, said Mr. Powell, a further check with the Secretary-General on this point would be made during his stay in London.

Asked if the Secretary-General would hold a press conference the day after his return, Ramses Nassif said he doubted it very much. Asked if the United States delegation had requested an appointment for Ambassador Goldberg on the Secretary-General's return, Mr. Nassif said he did not know of any.

A correspondent remarked that Marshal Tito had said in the Sudan that the Gunnar Jarring mission had failed. Was there any comment? Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, was continuing his conversations. He had returned to Nicosia today and would go tomorrow to Cairo and then to Amman. In reply to further questions, Mr. Powell said that there might be a report to the Security Council in the next 10 days or so on Mr. Jarring's visits to the various capitals but not a substantive report. He did not know when a substantive report would be made.

Asked about clashes in the Israel-Jordan sector, Mr. Powell observed that the United Nations had no truce machinery in that area.

Mr. Powell called attention to a letter dated 9 February from the President of the Council for South West Africa to the President of the Security Council (document S/8394), regarding the sentences handed down in South Africa against a number of South West Africans. A subsequent letter would be handed in today, he said, requesting a meeting of the Security Council. It was not anticipated that the Security Council would meet before Wednesday, 14 February.

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13 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Chef de Cabinet had been in touch with the Secretary-General in London who had said he would have nothing to say at the airport on his arrival in New York tonight (Pan American 1 from London, arriving 2010) and would be going directly home without going to the press room. Mr. Powell said that with this information and the inclemency of the weather he would discourage correspondents from going to the airport.

This discouragement prompted the optimism of one correspondent (Mr. Oatis, Associated Press) who asked at what time the Secretary-General would come into the office tomorrow. Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General normally came into the office about 9:45 a.m.

Other correspondents asked if the Secretary-General would make a statement tomorrow and whether the Secretary-General had made any statements to the press during his trip. Mr. Nassif said he would check tomorrow if the Secretary-General wished to make any statement. He said the Secretary-General had not seen any correspondents on his trip. At London airport he had sent a message to correspondents transmitting his apologies for not being able to see them and informing them that he had nothing to say.

Asked if after seeing the British Prime Minister the Secretary-General could confirm today's statement by Mr. Wilson in the Commons that the gap between the parties regarding negotiations on Viet-Nam was very, very small, Mr. Nassif said that the only check that had been made with the Secretary-General was whether he wished to meet the press at the airport tonight. Nothing substantive had been discussed.

In answer to questions on whether the Secretary-General had any appointments tonight or tomorrow Mr. Nassif said he had none tonight and was going directly home from the airport. He did not know the situation for tomorrow.

Mr. Powell recalled the announcement today that the ^{Security Council} Secretary-General would meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow regarding the request of 54 members for a meeting on the South West Africa trials and said he understood that consultations were going on today regarding the course of the meeting. He had no speakers yet. (The members of the South West Africa Council and the Asian African Group were meeting today to co-ordinate strategy.)

(more)

Replying to a previous question he said the final report by Mr. de Ribbing (Cambodia-Thailand) had been prepared. The Secretary-General was to see it tomorrow and it was hoped that it would be released on Thursday.

Asked about a letter Mr. Bunche had written to Eugene Rostow of the United States State Department (Miss Frederick, National Broadcasting Corporation) Mr. Powell said Mr. Bunche had written to Mr. Rostow about certain inaccuracies contained in a speech by him and published in the State Department Bulletin regarding the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Correspondents asked that the letter be made available. Mr. Powell said he would check and see if it could be posted.*

A correspondent said a long time had now gone by since the latest Korean crisis blew up. Had the Secretary-General or any other part of the Secretariat received any information from the United Nations Command? Mr. Powell said nothing that he was aware of.

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* After the briefing it was announced that Mr. Bunche's letter would be posted tomorrow. Before posting it Mr. Bunche wanted to check that Mr. Rostow had received it.

14 February 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell read out the communique on the Secretary-General's visit to Paris (Press Release SG/T/180). He said the Secretary-General would return to New York tomorrow (Pan Am 115, 14:30). There would be no statement at the Airport.

Asked where the Secretary-General would go from the airport Ramses Nassif said he did not know. The Secretary-General would probably decide tomorrow.

Correspondents asked for guidance on when the Secretary-General had decided to go to Paris, how the invitation had been made, whether the invitation was from the French Government for talks or from the North Viet-Nameese representative in Paris, whether the appointment with the North Viet-Nameese had been made in London or Paris, and whether he was to see Tran Van Hu (first Prime Minister in South Viet-Nam under Bao Dai; now in exile in Paris; saw the Secretary-General in New York in 1966). Mr. Nassif said he had no guidance on any of these matters. He would see that the questions were conveyed to the Secretary-General.

Asked if the communique could be taken as a denial of rumours that the Secretary-General was to go back to Moscow (there has been some speculation but no purported hard news on this in agency reports today), Mr. Nassif said he was not going to Moscow.

Asked why the term "interview" was used regarding the meeting with the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Nassif said that was the way the communique was sent. Asked if it had been sent in English he replied affirmatively.

Asked the names of the North Viet-Nameese the Secretary-General had seen in Rangoon last year on his vacation, Mr. Nassif said the United Nations had never published their names. When the correspondent said there had been two of them, Mr. Nassif corrected the correspondent and said there had been three.

Mr. Powell said that Mr. Bunche's letter was being issued as a note to correspondents in view of the interest shown by the Press yesterday (Note No. 3426). He said the United States mission had confirmed that the letter was on Mr. Rostow's desk. Mr. Rostow had been away but was going into his office this morning.

Asked if the Security Council was still scheduled to meet at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow (the time was changed last night from today in view of the Secretary-General's delayed arrival) Mr. Powell said that that was the position as of the time of the briefing.

(more)

Mr. Powell said the Committee of 24 had scheduled a meeting for today to continue its organization of work.

A question was asked about "the long delay" in publishing a letter from South Africa to the Secretary-General (dated 15 January and issued today as document A/6688/Add.2; complaining about references to South Africa's racial policies in the OPI pamphlet on human rights for Human Rights Year). Mr. Powell said that when the letter was sent originally South Africa had asked for its circulation among the documentation for the Year. The Secretariat had pointed out there was no such documentation and subsequently South Africa had asked that the letter be circulated as an Assembly document.

Asked about the reply to this letter Mr. Powell said reference had been made to the appropriate Assembly resolutions asking for wide publicity regarding apartheid and the soliciting of funds for the Trust Fund for South Africa. He was asked to post the reply and said he would check on this.

Asked why a letter from Yemen had been issued as a press release (NV/110) rather than as a document as requested by Yemen Mr. Powell said the Secretariat had pointed out there was no appropriate documentation on the subject matter and the Yemen had agreed that the procedure subsequently followed be the one to be used.

A correspondent said that Mr. Baroody's telegrammes on the subject had been issued as a document of the Security Council. Mr. Powell said that was because Saudi Arabia had specifically asked for it to be put out as a Council document. The Yemen had not.

A correspondent said that South Africa had been advised it could put out its letter as an Assembly document, but the Yemen had not been told that it could have its letter as a Council document. Mr. Powell said that was not the case. Both had been told that there was no appropriate documentation. The Secretariat had made no recommendations. South Africa had then asked for circulation as an Assembly document. The Yemen had not asked for circulation in any specific document series.

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15 February 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif said the Secretary-General's plane might be a little early. He would go by helicopter from the airport to the city and then by car to Headquarters and was expected to be in his office sometime between 2:45 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had been asked if he wished to make any statement at the airport or when he returned to his office and the Secretary-General had said he did not.

He said he had had queries on whether the Secretary-General would be seeing Mr. Goldberg and he understood the United States Mission was saying that Mr. Goldberg had been in touch with the Secretary-General's office and he wishes to see the Secretary-General promptly, at the Secretary-General's convenience, when he returned. In reply to a question he said as far as he knew that was the only appointment.

A number of questions were prompted by the statement yesterday by the United States State Department, issued in Mr. Rusk's name, suggesting that all explorations to date with Hanoi regarding "the San Antonio" formula had brought rejections from the North Vietnamese and by reports that the State Department has "enough of a reading" of U Thant's efforts to have this statement also cover his contacts.

Asked if the Secretary-General had contacted any American in London or Paris, or if any Secretariat official had contacted any American here, subsequent to the announced meeting with Mr. Bowles in New Delhi, Mr. Nassif said that to the best of his knowledge the answer was no on both counts.

Asked if the Secretary-General had seen anybody in Paris besides the French leaders and Mr. Bo, Mr. Nassif said he had not. A correspondent said United Press International said U Thant had seen the Indian Ambassador. Mr. Nassif said he did not know about this.

(more)

A correspondent said that from Mr. Nassif's answers it could be assumed that the United States did not really know the status of U Thant's efforts. Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to say on this. Another correspondent said Mr. Rusk had been explicit in saying "nothing has been done at all". Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to say on Mr. Rusk's statement.

Asked if the Secretariat had been kept informed of the substance of U Thant's efforts, he said it had not.

Subsequently a number of correspondents endorsed a request (Mr. Raghavan, Press Trust of India) that the Secretary-General be asked to reply today, whether he had seen any United States representative since Mr. Bowles or if he had transmitted any message to the United States giving an assessment of his talks in Moscow and with Mr. Bo in Paris.

César Ortiz recalled the announcement made earlier this morning that the Security Council would meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. on the request of 47 countries regarding the South West Africa trials.

He said that Mr. Jarring was now in Nicosia after his visit to Amman. He would be going to Cairo soon.

Asked why the Security Council had been delayed he said that one factor was the absence of the Secretary-General.

Asked if Moshe Dayan had an appointment with the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said not as far as he knew.

Asked if the Secretary-General had cleared Mr. Bunche's letter to Mr. Rostow before it was sent, Mr. Nassif said that was the case. In reply to another question he said there had not as yet been any acknowledgement from Mr. Rostow.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

16 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell stated at an OPI press briefing this morning that all the Secretary-General's appointments for today were at the request of the parties concerned. The appointments included one at 4:30 p.m. with Platon Morozov (Soviet Union) and Milko Tarabanov (Bulgaria) when it was expected that the Treaty of Friendship between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union would be registered.

Mr. Powell further stated that Gunnar Jarring, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East, was on a one-day visit to Jerusalem. He added that he had no information on the fighting in the Israel-Jordan sector since the United Nations had no observers there. The Secretary-General was concerned about the deteriorating situation, Mr. Powell said.

Queried on press reports of the possibilities of an invitation being extended to U Thant to visit Washington and whether the Secretary-General would accept such an invitation, Ramses Nassif stated that a correspondent, last evening, had asked him whether the Secretary-General would visit Washington if he were invited by President Johnson, and he had replied that U Thant would be happy to go.

In response to questions whether U Thant had received an invitation, since he, Mr. Nassif, had last checked, Mr. Nassif stated that he had no comment to make at this time.

Mr. Nassif added that it was not likely that the Secretary-General would hold a press conference this month. However, he, Mr. Nassif, hoped to be in a position on Monday to state the exact date on which the Secretary-General would make the statement which he promised to make on his recent trip.

In response to questions, Mr. Nassif stated that the Secretary-General did not see representatives of the National Liberation Front while he was in Moscow, nor did he see any United States representative prior to his meeting with Ambassador Goldberg yesterday.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

17 February 1968

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS ON SATURDAY, 17 FEBRUARY

Entering the Secretariat building at 10:15 a.m., the Secretary General, U Thant, was questioned by Michael Littlejohns (Reuter), the only correspondent on hand.

The query was: "In view of President Johnson's latest statement (to the effect that Hanoi does not want negotiations), are you still convinced there would be negotiations within two or three weeks after the bombing stopped?" The Secretary-General replied: "I am still convinced... I am more convinced than ever."

Pressed for further comment, he said that he would make a public statement after his return from Washington. He said the time of his visit to President Johnson would be 11 a.m. (on Wednesday).

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19 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Cesar Ortiz said the speakers so far for the Security Council meeting this afternoon were Brazil, India, United Kingdom and Ethiopia.

Today Mr. Jarring would be in Jerusalem and Cairo for talks with Israel and the United Arab Republic.

The new Permanent Representative of Nigeria, Mr. Ogbu, had presented his credentials this morning.

Tomorrow, at 12:30 p.m., Mrs. Jaigge (Ghana), Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women would hold a briefing.

Ramses Nassif said regarding the Secretary-General's visit to Washington Wednesday morning that he would be accompanied by Mr. Bunche and two personal aides, Don Thomas and George Pogue. He said the Secretary-General had met with President Johnson on six previous occasions: 25 November 1963 at the funeral of President Kennedy; 17 December 1963 when President Johnson addressed the General Assembly; 6 August 1964 when he was the guest of the President on an official visit to Washington; 26 June 1965 in San Francisco for the twentieth anniversary celebrations of the signing of the Charter; 14 June 1966 when the President held a reception for the United Nations at the White House; and 7 October 1966 when the President was in New York and came to see the Secretary-General in the United Nations.

He said the Secretary-General would make a statement on Viet-Nam this week, after he had seen the President.

Asked if that would be on Thursday he said that was a little too early and was unlikely. Asked if it would be before Saturday, he repeated that the statement would be made this week.

Since an Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs was being taken to Washington a correspondent asked if it could be assumed that the Secretary-General was going as the Secretary-General and not as U Thant or would the two personalities be separated in the White House. Mr. Nassif said he did not know how to answer the question. Subsequently when it was said that he had seen the North Viet-Nameese in his personal capacity on his recent trip and when it was asked if he was seeing the President in the same capacity Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General would see Mr. Johnson in both capacities.

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Asked if Mr. Bunche was going with the Secretary-General because he was the senior United States Secretariat official or because he had special responsibilities for Viet-Nam Mr. Nassif said for the former reason. Asked if Mr. Bunche had gone on the August 1964 visit and if Viet-Nam had been discussed then he said the answer was affirmative in both respects.

A correspondent said Mr. Bunche was taken on the visit to Washington and Mr. Nestorenko on the visit to Moscow but a French Under-Secretary was not taken to Paris, a British official was not taken to London nor was an Indian official taken to New Delhi. Mr. Nassif said it was up to the Secretary-General to decide who he wished to take where. Mr. Ortiz added that there was no particular pattern.

Asked if the Secretary-General was staying to lunch in Washington, how long he would stay and by what plane he was going Mr. Nassif said he was travelling in a United States Government plane and he would return to New York the same day. He did not know what the lunch arrangements were.

Asked if the Secretary-General had asked for a meeting with the President Mr. Nassif said he had. It was the same pattern followed throughout the trip with the Secretary-General asking for the various appointments with the Heads of Governments concerned. Asked if the United States response fell into the same pattern as the other responses he said he did not know how to answer the question.

Asked if the Secretary-General had made a report directly to the President or Mr. Rusk on his recent visit or if it could be assumed that Wednesday would be the first time he had made a report Mr. Nassif pointed out that the Secretary-General had seen Mr. Goldberg almost immediately on his return to New York. It had been a long meeting. He did not know what had happened there.

A correspondent asked if the United Nations was aware of the figures given out by President Kuanda in Zambia on 15 February that Rhodesia had received 713,000 tons of oil between January 1966 and August 1967. Mr. Nassif said he would look into it.

Another correspondent asked if a letter from a company to the United Nations asking to lease part of the seabed could be made public. Mr. Ortiz said he would check.

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20 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General was meeting today with Business International -- a group of business leaders -- at 11 a.m. and was having lunch with the group at the Union League Club.

Mr. Powell said that he would not be able to give any details regarding the time of the Secretary-General's statement on Viet-Nam until after the Secretary-General returned from Washington tomorrow, 21 February, about 4:30 or 5 p.m.

In reply to questions about the Secretary-General's trip to Washington, Ramses Nassif said that he had an 11 a.m. appointment with President Johnson at the White House. Afterward, he would have lunch with Secretary of State Dean Rusk at the State Department. Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, would accompany him to Washington and would be present at the appointment and at the luncheon. The Secretary-General would not make any statement in Washington or on his return until he made the promised statement on Viet-Nam. A correspondent asked if Arthur Goldberg, who was going to Washington on the United States Government plane with the Secretary-General, would be present at the luncheon. Mr. Powell said he did not know and suggested that the question be put to the United States Mission.

On other matters, a correspondent recalled that the Secretary-General had stated that he would consult with the Governments concerned regarding the treatment of people in the areas occupied by Israeli forces, and asked if a request had been received for a commission to visit these areas. Mr. Powell said he would check.

In reply to other questions on the Middle East, Mr. Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, was in Cairo today. He did not expect a substantive report in the near future on Mr. Jarring's mission, although there might be a report listing Mr. Jarring's visits to the various capitals by the end of this month.

To questions on the mission of Herbert de Ribbing, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cambodia and Thailand, Mr. Powell said that he did not expect a report on the mission apart from the one issued a few days ago stating that the mission was being terminated. He did not know of any plan by Mr. de Ribbing to come to New York.

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To questions about the statement of President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, to the effect that large quantities of oil had been arriving in Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Powell said that the Secretariat was aware of the Press reports but that nothing had been received here from the Zambian delegation. He would check further. As to discrepancies between these figures and the figures reported to the United Nations by the Governments concerned, Mr. Powell noted that the Secretary-General's reports were based on replies from Governments.

In reply to a question asked previously, Mr. Powell said that a firm called Crawford Marine Specialists, in San Francisco, had asked the United Nations for a 38.5 square mile exclusive mineral exploration lease to survey thermal sea-floor springs in the Middle of the Red Sea. The United Nations had replied that at the present time it had no authority to issue such a lease. The reply had been sent from the Resources and Transport Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Powell said he did not know who had signed it.

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21 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that as yet there was no information on the Secretary-General's White House visit. The expectation had been that his conversations with President Johnson would cover about an hour; that the State Department luncheon would take place from 1:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.; and that the Secretary-General would arrive at the airport about 4:30 p.m. and be in Headquarters about 5:00 p.m. Blair House was available for the Secretary-General if he wished to use it.

Speakers in the Security Council this afternoon are Indonesia, Turkey, Zambia and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Powell then replied to questions asked at previous briefings relating to sea resources; a reported request for a commission to go to Israeli occupied lands; earlier requests by Lebanon and the United Arab Republic regarding treatment of civilians in the occupied territories; and regarding Rhodesia sanctions.

He said that part 1 of the report on the resources of sea would cover mineral resources beyond the continental shelf and was expected to be available about mid-March. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology would discuss the report in their session from 1 to 12 April and put recommendations to the Economic and Social Council which would meet from 6 to 31 May. He said no date had been set for a meeting of the committee on the sea-bed and that Mr. Chai would be Secretary of that committee. (Later it was indicated that the committee was tentatively scheduled to begin its meetings the week of 18 March.)

No request had been received by the Secretariat from the United Arab Republic for a commission to investigate the treatment of people in Israeli occupied lands. Regarding the requests of Lebanon and the United Arab Republic, the Secretary-General would discuss with the parties the question of civilians in the occupied territories as soon as he could on his return from Washington. A correspondent said that the request had been for discussions with Member States on this matter. Mr. Powell said the initial discussions of the Secretary-General would be with the parties.

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Regarding the report that the President of Zambia had given information on breaches of the Rhodesia oil sanctions and had forwarded the information to the United Nations, Mr. Powell said the information had not yet been transmitted to the Secretariat.

Asked why the report by the Secretary-General on the discontinuance of the de Ribbing mission had been only one page, he said because the Secretary-General had felt that was all it was necessary to say.

A large number of questions were then asked regarding reports of comments attributed to Mr. Bunche in Fullerton, California on Monday.

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said "Mr. Bunche is giving press conferences in other places; why can't we have one here." Mr. Powell said it had not been a press conference but a seminar. He was then requested to ask Mr. Bunche if he would hold a seminar for the press here and Mr. Powell said he would pass on the request. He ~~was also~~ asked if a transcript of Mr. Bunche's seminar could be issued and said the remarks were extemporaneous.

He then read out the following statement on behalf of Mr. Bunche:

"Report from Fullerton, California, attributing to me 'optimism' about the prospects for negotiations to end the war in Viet-Nam are seriously inaccurate. In response to a question I said that 'on paper' it might appear that the distance between the latest announced positions of the two parties was not 'terribly great'. But this distance, I added, had to be measured by the 'solid wall' of mistrust, fear and suspicion between them. Later, to another question as to whether I saw any 'hope', I said that as a worker in the United Nations I was a 'professional optimist' in the sense that we regard all problems of human conflict and relations as soluble, but that the critical question in major conflict situations is always whether the stage of negotiation can be reached in time to avert catastrophe."

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik) said "it is passing strange that Mr. Bunche has total recall of extemporaneous remarks and it would be better if the total recall was in context". Mr. Powell said this was a comment not a question. The correspondent then asked if it was possible to have the text of Mr. Bunche's remarks and Mr. Powell said the question had now been asked and his answer was that he would pass the question on to Mr. Bunche.

Another correspondent (Mr. Littlejohns, Reuters) asked if Mr. Bunche spoke for the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General at each of his stops on his

(more)

recent round of discussions on Viet-Nam had refused to make any statement but now statements were being issued by Mr. Bunche. Mr. Powell replied that Mr. Bunche was speaking as Mr. Bunche and not making statements on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Another correspondent (Mr. Raghavan, Press Trust of India) said it must be assumed that the Secretary-General had briefed Mr. Bunche before he went with him to Washington. Was Mr. Bunche's statement in California reflecting the information received from U Thant? Mr. Powell said Mr. Bunche had been reflecting his personal view within the context of being the professional optimist, which all workers at the United Nations were.

Asked what had been the topic of Mr. Bunche's seminar, Mr. Powell said he would try to find out.

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik) said there were written stipulations that officials "should not make political dicta while working in this vineyard". ~~Ram~~ Nassif said there were rules and there were exceptions. Mr. Powell said various Secretariat officials were authorized to make speeches. He himself had this authorization.

Asked again if Mr. Bunche's comments reflected U Thant's views regarding a Viet-Nam settlement Mr. Nassif said this was Mr. Bunche speaking not U Thant.

Asked if the Secretary-General would have anything to say today on his return to Headquarters, Mr. Powell said the only thing that would be said was an indication when his statement on Viet-Nam would be made. Asked how long it would be, he said he had no idea. Asked if the statement would be long or short, Mr. Nassif said it would be long. A correspondent (Mr. Ottis, Associated Press) said he had been told that the statement would be 40 minutes. Mr. Powell said that since the Secretary-General himself did not know how long the statement would be at this moment the informant must have a crystal ball.

Asked if the Secretary-General would read the statement himself, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. To a question on whether the Secretary-General would hold a press conference, he said he would not. Asked if the Secretary-General's statement would contain new proposals, Mr. Nassif said he did not know.

A correspondent asked that the Secretary-General's advisers take into account the fact that there was a time difference between Europe and the United States. Mr. Nassif said that was the case also for the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Mr. Powell said the correspondent could be assured they were taking a global view.

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A comment was then asked on a report by a Paris based correspondent, carried during a BBC discussion yesterday, that North Viet-Nam had told the Secretary-General that discussions would take place within 48 hours if the United States publicly announced the end of bombing and within 3 weeks if the bombing cessation took place without a public announcement. The report also said that North Viet-Nam would call for a cease fire when the discussions began and would withdraw its troops from the South provided the United States withdrew its troops from the Demilitarized Zone.

Mr. Nassif said he had nothing to say on this report. Asked if it was true he said he did not know.

Asked if the Secretary-General's statement would be on the findings of his recent trip, Mr. Nassif said he did not know what was in the statement. All he knew was that it was on Viet-Nam.

Asked for comment on a report carried today in the New York Times with an Israeli dateline that Israel regarded the Jarring Mission as being of no further use, Mr. Powell said the Secretariat had no information to indicate any basis for this report.

Asked if a report was expected from Mr. Jarring in the near future, he said there was no plan to submit a report to the Security Council. Mr. Jarring reported continuously on a confidential basis to the Secretary-General. In reply to another question, he said there was no plan for Mr. Jarring to come to Headquarters at this time.

A correspondent said it could be assumed that the confidential reports also covered the question of whether Israel thought the mission was useful. Mr. Powell repeated that there was no information in the Secretariat to indicate any basis for today's story.

Another correspondent asked if there was any basis on another aspect of the story which said that Israel had accepted the November resolution of the Security Council on the Middle East as a basis for discussions. Mr. Powell said he could not comment on the attitude of Member States. This was a question for the Israeli mission.

Asked if Mr. Jarring had complained of being a shuttlecock, Mr. Powell said he could not imagine Mr. Jarring using such words. The answer was that he had not made such a complaint.

(more)

Asked if there was any comment or information "on people walking in and out of the UNCTAD Conference", Mr. Powell said he had nothing.

Asked if the Secretary-General had any comment on the many statements calling his trip to Washington a useless one, Mr. Nassif said he would check with the Secretary-General this evening to see if he had anything he wished to say regarding his visit to Washington.

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23 February 1968

NOTES ON O.P.I. PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular O.P.I. press briefing at noon today, William Powell listed the Secretary-General's appointments, including one with the ambassadors of the five Nordic countries, at their request, and one with the representative of Israel. Asked about the appointment with the representatives of the Nordic countries, he said that, "as you know, those countries have continuing interest in Viet-Nam", and that Viet-Nam had been the subject of the discussion.

Asked if the Secretary-General was seeing them as a private person or as Secretary-General, Ramses Nassif replied, "Both". Asked if the request had come as a surprise or was part of a series of discussions on this subject, Mr. Nassif said he did not know. All he knew was that the Danish mission had called to say that the ambassadors of the Nordic countries wanted to see the Secretary-General. They had not stated the subject. The Secretary-General had told him that the subject was Viet-Nam. In reply to further questions, he said that the appointment had been made yesterday, but he did not know what time. Asked if there had been previous meetings of this kind, Mr. Powell said he was not aware of any.

A correspondent said that apparently the Secretary-General had on Wednesday, 21 February, conveyed to President Johnson his assessment of the position of North Viet-Nam. Had he also, since then, conveyed to North Viet-Nam his assessment of the United States position? Mr. Nassif said he would ask.

Another correspondent said that the Secretary-General, since his return from Washington, had seen some of the members of the Security Council but not others. Mr. Nassif said that these appointments had been arranged at the request of the delegates concerned.

Mr. Powell, reviewing the arrangements for the release of the Secretary-General's statement on Viet-Nam tomorrow, 24 February, said that the Secretary-General would read the statement in the studio at 11 a.m. The text, in English

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and French, would be available on the third floor at 11 a.m., embargoed for 11:30 a.m. He did not know the length of the statement. It was still being worked on, he said, by the Secretary-General himself.

Asked if the text could be distributed at 9 or 9:30 a.m., with the same embargo, Mr. Powell said no, these were the Secretary-General's instructions. Several correspondents complained about the time of release. One said he assumed that the only intention was to attract a United States audience, as the time was unsuitable for other areas. Another said it was not suitable for the United States papers, either, and asked if it was being "beamed to one special place, like Moscow". Others asked what considerations had gone into the selection of this time, if indeed, there had been any considerations. Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had selected the time, and it could not be changed. Mr. Powell said that the views of all the various groups of correspondents on the matter had been presented. In reply to other questions, he said that the statement would not be issued as a document. Delegations would receive copies of the press release. Asked if it was an official statement, he said it was a statement by the Secretary-General.

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26 February 1968

NOTES ON OPI PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell read out the text of a statement, attributable to a United Nations spokesman, to the effect that the Secretary-General had convened to his Special Representative in the Middle East, Gunnar Jarring, his feeling that it would be useful at this stage to have an opportunity for consultation and exchange of views between them. Among the subjects to be considered, he said, would be "possible next steps and the prospects for entering upon a new stage in the discussions with the parties".

Mr. Jarring had responded favourably to this suggestion, he said, and planned to come to New York on Wednesday, 28 February. After a brief stay here, he would return to the Middle East and resume his efforts.

Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring was in Amman today and would be in Jerusalem tomorrow, 27 February. Asked if the reference to "possible next steps" and "a new stage in the discussions with the parties" indicated optimism or urgency, Mr. Powell said he did not know and would try to get guidance. Asked if there was a possibility that Mr. Jarring might meet with correspondents, he said he could say in advance that he did not think so.

In listing the Secretary-General's appointments for today, Mr. Powell noted that one, with the representative of Israel, Mr. Tekoah, was at the Secretary-General's request. In reply to questions, he said that this was part of the Secretary-General's discussions with the Governments concerned about the treatment of civilians in the occupied areas. It had no connexion with Mr. Jarring's return. The Secretary-General had seen Mr. Tekoah last week and had also seen the representative of the United Arab Republic, Mr. El-Kony.

Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General would leave tonight for Hot Springs, Virginia, where a conference of Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme was being held. The Secretary-General would address them at a luncheon meeting tomorrow, and would return to New York tomorrow night.

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In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General's remarks would be extemporaneous. He would not make a political speech. At a previous meeting with the Resident Representatives, held in Turin, Italy, he had discussed the problems they faced. Asked if anyone would accompany the Secretary-General to Hot Springs to take down his remarks, Mr. Powell said that he would pass on the suggestion to the UNDP, which would have people there.

Several questions were asked this morning about the Secretary-General's statement last Saturday, 24 February, on Viet-Nam, and the reaction to it. Ramses Nassif said, in reply to a question, that he had nothing to elaborate on the statement at all. Asked if letters, telegrams and other indications of public reaction had been received here, he said he would check. Asked if there had been any monitoring to show how much the statement had been used in the United States, Mr. Powell said that the United Nations had no clipping service. Asked about radio and television, he said he would check to see if this information was available. Josef Nichols, of the Radio and Visual Services Division, said that the statement had been carried by satellite to Europe, embargoed for use at 11:30 a.m., and recorded at the other end. A correspondent said he had not known about that at the time and felt it must be "the obvious reason for the peculiar timing" of the statement. He would have felt better had he known that before, he said. Asked if that was indeed the reason why the time of the statement had been decided upon, Mr. Powell said no.

Asked if the Secretary-General had convened to North Viet-Nam, directly or indirectly, his assessment of his talks with President Johnson, Mr. Nassif said he had mentioned this question, which had been asked previously, to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General did not wish to say anything on it at this time. The Secretary-General had no comment on the United States statement of Saturday or the Sunday broadcasts.

Asked if the Secretary-General planned to meet again with President Johnson, Mr. Nassif said he did not know of any plans for another meeting.

Asked about the possibility of a press conference by the Secretary-General, Mr. Nassif said it was "very unlikely". To further questions, he said he was speaking, of course, of the near future. He was not excluding "another this year".

On another matter, a correspondent asked if a telegram to the Human Rights Commission had been received "from the Biafra people". Mr. Nassif said that the Secretary-General had received the cable. There was no action to be taken on it.

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27 February 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell recalled this morning's announcement that the Security Council would meet tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. on South West Africa. He had no speakers as yet. He drew attention to the seven-Power draft resolution issued last night (S/8429).

He said that Mr. Jarring would fly in his own plane from Nicosia to Rome tomorrow and then take Al Italia 610 to New York, arriving at 5 p.m. New York time. No statement would be made and he did not encourage correspondents to go to the airport.

Asked where Mr. Jarring would go from the airport he said he did not know, but would find out when he met him at the airport.

Asked why there would be no statement when Mr. Powell, as a press officer, was going to meet Mr. Jarring Mr. Powell replied that Mr. Jarring had indicated he did not want to make a statement and he was going as a press officer to protect him from the Press. (It was suggested that Mr. Powell change his title to "anti-Press officer".)

Replying to a question asked yesterday on reactions to the Secretary-General's statement on Viet-Nam Mr. Powell said a statement by the Foreign Minister of Sweden made yesterday had been transmitted to the Secretary-General through the permanent mission. He understood a similar statement had been made by the Foreign Minister of Denmark but he did not have the official text.

The statement by Torsten Nilsson was:

"I have studied the Secretary-General's report concerning the talks he has had on the Vietnam question during his recent travel to New Delhi, Moscow, London, Paris and Washington. Summing up the conclusions he draws from these talks U Thant repeats that, in his view, the indispensable first step must be the ending of all bombing and other acts of war against North Vietnam. He considers that this step could be taken without too great a military risk. He is more than ever convinced that meaningful talks will then take place 'even perhaps within a matter of a few days'.

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"U Thant's appraisal of the situation is very close to our own. Mr. Chanh, the North Vietnamese Ambassador to Moscow, who visited us a few days ago, also firmly declared that if the bombing and all other acts of war against North Vietnam were ended unconditionally, then there would be talks. We give U Thant's continued efforts our full support and hope that his words will increase the willingness of all parties to try, in good faith, to put and end to this abhorrent war. U Thant's closing words merit to be heard and pondered by those who carry the responsibility for the war in Vietnam: 'The world is anguished and sickened by the continued intensity and savagery of the war. It is heart-rending to witness the agony of the innocent civilians who cannot possibly know what it is all about. Also the military casualties steadily mount. The ugliness of the war is matched only by its futility.'"

Replying to another question Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General had been asked if he wished to make available the text of his remarks in Hot Springs today. Facilities were available for transcribing the statement but that would depend on whether the Secretary-General wanted the text made available or whether he regarded his statement as "an informal in-the-house speech".

Mr. Powell drew attention to an OPI publication feature on the work of the Committee of 24 in 1967. (Publication Feature No.6)

Asked if the United Kingdom had transmitted to the Secretary-General Mr. Wilson's reported statement today on Viet-Nam (reported to say in part that the Secretary-General and others knew that the United States would stop the bombing if given the clear sign awaited from Hanoi) Mr. Powell said he did not know.

Asked if the Secretary-General was aware of what the Senate Majority Leader Mr. Mansfield had said yesterday (calling for a trial suspension of the bombing of North Viet-Nam) Mr. Powell said he could not ask for a comment because the Secretary-General was away but he was certain he would have read the papers today.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General had communicated with Hanoi his assessment of his talks with Mr. Johnson he said he had left that question to Mr. Nassif but he was off ill and now the Secretary-General was away.*

(more)

* Subsequently Mr. Powell recalled that Mr. Nassif at yesterday's briefing had stated that the Secretary-General did not wish to say anything on this matter at this time.

Asked if any report had been received on re-inforcement of forces in South Korea he said no information had been received from the United States on behalf of the Unified Command. In reply to a question on whether the Secretary-General had the right to ask for information he said there was no provision for requests for reports in the 7 July 1950 resolution. Asked who could request information he said the Security Council.

A correspondent said there had recently been a report of a statement by United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK). Could UNCURK make a special report? Mr. Powell said it could but had not asked to do so. Normally it made one report to the General Assembly. Another correspondent said "aren't the wishes upstairs more important than Seoul?" Mr. Powell replied that UNCURK was a body of the General Assembly, not the Secretary-General.

Asked if there had been any response from Mr. Rostow or the White House on Mr. Bunche's letter regarding the withdrawal of United Nations Emergency Force he said he would check.

Asked if some cables had been received from British citizens in Kenya asking the Secretary-General to intervene on the question of the Kenya Asians Mr. Powell said some had been received. Asked what was the Secretary-General's reaction he said "the Secretary-General does not believe he can intervene in a matter of domestic jurisdiction and nationality laws".

To a question on how Mr. Bunche had conducted the negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis in Rhodes Mr. Powell said that as Acting Mediator he had seen the delegations separately on a day to day basis. The delegations had been housed in different parts of the same hotel. Asked if the delegations had ever met he said they must have met to sign the Armistice Agreement.

Asked if the statement yesterday regarding the arrival of Mr. Jarring reflected optimism or urgency he said the statement would have to stand for itself. He could not characterize it in any way.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

28 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that Mr. Jarring was still due to arrive this afternoon. and, for the benefit of Mr. Oatis, repeated the airline and flight number. (Mr. Oatis corrected Mr. Powell, pointing out that the name of the airline was Alitalia, not Air Italia.)

Mr. Powell said he did not know whether Mr. Jarring would be coming into Headquarters today. He said in reply to a question that he did not know at what hotel Mr. Jarring was staying.

The appointments of the Secretary-General are the permanent representatives of Hungary, Indonesia and Iraq, each at the request of the person concerned, he said.

Replying to questions asked at the briefing yesterday, he said Mr. Rostow had replied to Mr. Bunche. Mr. Bunche had received the letter on Monday afternoon.

The Secretary-General had decided that his Hot Springs statement was informal and off-the-record, and no transcript would be issued.

Asked what the letter from Mr. Rostow said, Mr. Powell replied that was a question which should be directed to Mr. Rostow. Asked if Mr. Bunche was satisfied with the reply, he said he understood he was. Would the correspondence be continued? He did not think so.

A correspondent said that the letter was no longer Mr. Rostow's, it was Mr. Bunche's. Mr. Powell said the State Department had released Mr. Rostow's original remarks and Mr. Bunche had released his own reply. Any further release was up to Mr. Rostow and the State Department if they wished to do so. Another correspondent (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said "What ever happened to the practice in this House of giving both sides; the correspondence with Mr. Baroody was published." Mr. Powell pointed out that he had previously stated that there was no comparison. In the one case, Mr. Baroody had asked that the correspondence be issued as a Security Council document.

(more)

Asked if it was safe to assume that Mr. Rostow had agreed with Mr. Bunche's reply, Mr. Powell said it was not safe to assume anything.

Was the termination of correspondence by Mr. Rostow, Mr. Bunche or mutually agreed? Mr. Bunche had indicated he was not going to write a further letter. Did this apply even if Mr. Rostow released his letter? Mr. Powell believed so.

Asked if Mr. Jarring would go back to the area soon and if his stay was going to be brief, Mr. Powell recalled that when it was announced that Mr. Jarring was coming back, it was said that his stay would be brief. He did not yet know exactly when he would depart.

A number of questions were then asked relating to a report today in the Washington Post, carried under a United Nations dateline, stating that Egypt and Jordan had agreed privately to a new United Nations formula for peace talks for meetings in Cyprus. The story says that the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic has deposited acceptance of the formula with the United Nations and suggests that the formula is similar to that in which Mr. Bunche was involved as Acting Mediator during the Rhodes talks.

Asked if there was agreement on peace talks for the Middle East, Mr. Powell said not that he was aware of. Had anything been received at Headquarters to confirm an agreement? No.

Specific reference was then made to the Washington Post story and the question asked if the two sides were going to meet in Cyprus. Mr. Powell said "there is nothing in this House to confirm that". Asked if this was a denial, he said "I did not say that; I said there is nothing in this House to confirm that."

Asked what was meant by the phrase "nothing in this House", Mr. Powell said "there is nothing available to the Secretariat to confirm this report".

Asked if after a certain stage during the Rhodes talks Mr. Bunche met with the Israelis on one side of him and the Egyptians on the other, Mr. Powell said they had met together during the signing of the Armistice Agreement. Had they met at any time together before that? He would check.

A reference was made to Walter Eytan's book "The First Ten Years" in which it is stated that at one stage a meeting took place in Mr. Bunche's room in the hotel at Rhodes with the Israelis on one side and the Egyptians on the other. Mr. Powell was asked if he was disputing the passage. He replied that he was not disputing anything. He was saying that the negotiations were conducted separately.

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Asked to check the passage with Mr. Bunche, he said he had done so. Asked for a comment, he said the answer was that Mr. Bunche was not going to comment on other people's memoirs. Asked what was the recollection of Secretariat members at Rhodes, he said the answer was the same as yesterday, "the negotiations on a day to day basis were conducted individually with the parties".

Viet-Nam was the next subject.

A correspondent said that the Secretary-General in his statement on Saturday had said the conflict must be brought to an end. It must be assumed that the Secretary-General meant by peaceful means? Ramses Nassif said that was so. Therefore, the correspondent said, was there now a comment by the Secretary-General on statements this week by both sides that suggested intensification of efforts to reach a military solution. Mr. Nassif said he could not answer but offered in exchange a piece of news.

He then read out the following statement by the Foreign Minister of Finland, Ahti Karjalainen, transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Mission:

"The Government of Finland, which follows the situation in Viet-Nam with deep concern, has carefully studied the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, on February 24, 1968, on his discussions in various capitals on the question of bringing to an end the war in Viet-Nam, which is causing more and more destruction and suffering to the Vietnamese people and an increasing strain to international relations.

"The Government of Finland attaches great importance to the persistent efforts made by the Secretary-General to clarify the possibilities of negotiations for settling the conflict and supports the views expressed by the Secretary-General in his statement.

"The Government of Finland reaffirms its previously stated view according to which the conflict in Viet-Nam cannot be settled by military means; it can be solved only through negotiations between the parties concerned who should do their utmost to make negotiations possible. The most important step to this end would be the unconditional ending of all bombing of the territory of North Viet-Nam."

The piece of news did not stem the flood of questions.

(more)

Asked if the Secretary-General had been officially informed of the French statement today, Mr. Nassif said he had not. He was aware of press reports of the French statement as he was also aware of the statement by the Danish Foreign Minister. (In part the French statement says that France fully endorsed U Thant's warning that unless peace talks opened soon, the war risks escalation into a threat to world peace. It also says France had received specific assurances that an unconditional bombing halt was "necessary and sufficient" for opening of Vietnamese peace negotiations.)

Asked if the Secretary-General had received a copy of the United Kingdom Prime Minister's statement on Viet-Nam in the Commons yesterday, he said the Secretary-General was aware of the statement but had not seen an official text.

Asked if there had been any mail or cables from Americans after U Thant's statement on Saturday, Mr. Nassif said this was being checked. Mr. Powell said that he knew that the Public Inquiries Unit had received a number of requests for the full text of the statement and some 150 more copies were required by them. The correspondent said she was specifically interested in mail and cable reaction from Americans to the statement.

Asked for an answer to the question whether the Secretary-General had transmitted to Hanoi an assessment of his talks with President Johnson, Mr. Nassif said the answer was the same as given earlier -- "the Secretary-General does not want to answer that question at this time."

A number of questions were then asked (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe; Mr. Reddy, Indian Express) which boiled down to whether, since the Secretary-General in his statement had not mentioned any three points for a settlement, the Secretary-General had now abandoned his three points of stopping the bombing, de-escalation and talks between those fighting, in a one, two, three order.

Mr. Nassif said that the last word of the Secretary-General was his statement of Saturday. Asked if the three points were still valid, and if so why they were not in the statement. Mr. Nassif said those points were all embodied in the recent statement. The correspondent (Mr. Jhabvala) said he saw no reference to de-escalation and Mr. Nassif said he would point it out to the correspondent after the briefing.

(more)

Asked if the Secretary-General was gratified by the support given him by Senator Mansfield, he said "I have not checked on this, but I know the Secretary-General is gratified by the support he has received from Governments."

Asked if there was any comment on a statement by the Democratic Republic of Korea that the situation regarding Korea was worsening, he said he had not checked.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

29 February 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, had arrived in New York last evening and had come to Headquarters briefly to greet the Secretary-General and Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs.

Mr. Jarring had begun his substantive discussions this morning, meeting with the Secretary-General at 11:30 a.m. There was no indication how long he would stay in New York. In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that the appointment with the Secretary-General was the only one listed so far for Mr. Jarring. Asked if future appointments would be given out, Mr. Powell said he would ask Mr. Jarring if he wished to make them public. Asked if there was a chance that Mr. Jarring would meet with correspondents, Mr. Powell replied, "Absolutely not". He had talked with Mr. Jarring about the possibility, and Mr. Jarring had made clear that he would not do so. Mr. Jarring had not met with correspondents in any of the cities he had visited, other than to say his mission was continuing, and he would not do so here. Asked if a statement would be issued at the end of Mr. Jarring's visit here, Mr. Powell said he would check at that time. He felt sure he would be able to give correspondents Mr. Jarring's flight number. As for a report by the Secretary-General, if there was one it would only indicate Mr. Jarring's recent visits to the various capitals.

Asked if Mr. Powell's recent response still stood, to the effect that there was "nothing in the house" to back up press reports that the Governments concerned had agreed to meetings in Nicosia on this matter, Mr. Powell said it did.

With regard to the talks held at Rhodes in 1949, Mr. Powell read the following statement from Mr. Bunche:

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"My attention has been drawn to the current circulation of a number of accounts of how the 1949 armistice talks at Rhodes were conducted. Some of the versions and descriptions I have seen are quite inaccurate and misleading. Since some of the stories have used my name in one way or another, I wish it to be known that I have never made any comment for publication about any aspect of those talks and do not intend to make any at this time, even to correct mistakes, because I do not think that it would be helpful to do so in the present circumstances. Therefore, although I have extensive personal notes on what actually transpired at Rhodes, I have nothing to add at present to what was said in my reports to the Security Council in 1949 about the talks at Rhodes."

Numerous questions followed. The first questioner asked where this left Mr. Powell's statement of two days ago, to the effect that he had been authorized by Mr. Bunche to say that day-to-day negotiations had been carried on separately with the parties, and asked if this was not contradictory. Mr. Powell replied that he was not taking back his previous statement, made as a United Nations spokesman. To further questions, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Bunche had not directly made any statement for publication on the Rhodes negotiations. Asked about the Security Council documents circulated at the time, which indicated that there had been a joint meeting with the parties at Rhodes, Mr. Powell said he had nothing to say. The Security Council documents were there. A correspondent asked if Mr. Bunche saw "real political significance" in this issue. Mr. Powell said he had no comment. Another correspondent asked whether Mr. Bunche's "shotgun approach" in denying everything was really "a good idea". To further questions about the statement, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Bunche, as stated, had extensive personal notes about the talks at Rhodes. He had not made them available. Mr. Powell did not know what Mr. Bunche's publications plans were. Asked if Mr. Bunche considered the Security Council documents misleading, Mr. Powell said that Mr. Bunche's reports to the Council were not. He had nothing to add to what he had already stated. He had said that the day-to-day negotiations with the parties had been separate. Ramses Nassif added, at this point, "And that still stands". Mr. Powell said he saw no contradiction between the two statements.

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Asked if questions could be asked on another topic, Mr. Powell said, "I'd be delighted".

The correspondent then remarked that the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam to the United Nations had issued two press releases yesterday, "one attacking the New York Times and one the Associated Press for publishing reports about Viet-Nam which had nothing to do with the United Nations". The correspondent went on to say that the Viet-Nam Observer's Office had also issued press releases here recently containing "attacks on the Senators Kennedy" for speeches they had made in the United States which also had nothing to do with the United Nations. Was this an acceptable procedure? Mr. Powell replied that there was a long-standing tradition whereby the Office of Public Information made available facilities to delegations and observers for the circulation of press releases, provided they were clearly identified as to coming from the delegations and observers. The United Nations did not take responsibility for the contents of these releases. The correspondent said he had called the Legal Department, among others, and gotten a somewhat different reply. Mr. Nassif said that the Legal Department had nothing to do with it. The correspondent said he had been told by another spokesman that such releases had to have something to do with United Nations matters. Mr. Nassif said that the United Nations could not begin to censor such releases. Other correspondents remarked at this point that they found such releases useful and, in any case, Viet-Nam was on the agenda of the Security Council.

Mr. Nassif said that the text of a statement by the Danish Foreign Minister, supporting the Secretary-General's statement of 24 February on Viet-Nam, had been sent to the Secretary-General yesterday and would be posted. A French Government statement had also been received. Asked about reaction in the form of letters and telegrams from inside the United States, he said that these were still being sorted. He hoped to have some figures later today. In reply to a question asked yesterday about the Secretary-General's three points on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that he had checked the matter with the Secretary-General, who had said that the three points were embodied in the statement.

In reply to questions about Cyprus, Mr. Powell said that the communication said to be coming from President Makarios had not yet been received. There would probably be a report by the Secretary-General around 10 March and a meeting of the Security Council in mid-March, as the current mandate of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force was expiring on 26 March.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

1 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments were with the permanent representatives of Morocco and of Canada, each at the individual's request, and with Mr. Jarring.

At 1:00 p.m. today the Secretary-General and Mr. Hoffman would host a lunch for all permanent representatives in the Jade Room of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.

Asked the reason for this lunch Ramses Nassif said it was connected with United Nations Development Programme. He said in reply to other questions that he did not know if it was an annual affair and he would let correspondents know if speeches were made. He thought there might be some.

Mr. Powell said Mr. Jarring had asked that his appointments, except those with the Secretary-General, not be given out. He said he did not know when Mr. Jarring would be leaving for Nicosia.

Sometime this afternoon a document would be issued in both the A/ and S/ series from the United Arab Republic, handed in yesterday. Asked the subject he said he believed it was on the treatment of civilians in the occupied areas.

In reply to specific questions on the Jarring mission he gave out the names of the personnel with Mr. Jarring (MEM/2 of 8 December 1967); said there was also two or three field staff, the flight crew for his jet, chartered by the United Nations from the Swiss; and that they were housed in the Hilton Hotel in Nicosia. He believed Mr. Jarring had a suite. Mr. Jarring's mission came under the budget for special missions. To the best of his knowledge there was no plan for Mr. Jarring to submit a report to the Security Council at this juncture.

Asked if there was now "in this house" information to confirm reports of acceptance of "the Rhodes formula" Mr. Powell said there was not.

In reply to another question he said that Mr. Jarring was not involved in the patrol boat/helicopter negotiations regarding observation in the Suez sector. This was an observation question and was being handled by General Bull.

In reply to questions on publicity for the Secretary-General's report on the effects and implications of nuclear weapons he said what was being published by OPI was not new in content. There was the request by the General Assembly for publication of the report in full in the five official languages and in addition the OPI

(more)

was publishing a pamphlet containing parts of the report in a question and answer form. This was being published in some 12 or 14 languages and the English edition was at the printers. He thought it would come out early in March. There had been a large number of requests for information from non-governmental organizations and other bodies. Distribution would be handled by the United Nations Information Centres.

Mr. Powell said the second stamp in the United Nations art series would be issued today. It reproduced the wooden statue in the Trusteeship Council chamber.

Asked if the Secretary-General planned to send a letter of thanks or regret to Mr. Woods and one of welcome to Mr. MacNamara regarding the International Bank change of heads Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Regarding the resumed General Assembly Mr. Powell said in reply to a question that he did not know when it would take place. A correspondent said she had heard the date 24 April. Mr. Powell said he had also heard corridor rumours about the second half of April but he had no official information. Asked what items were on the resumed session agenda he said disarmament, South West Africa and the Middle East. He could not recall how long had been budgeted for.

On the question of Cyprus he said in reply to a question that the mandate ended on 26 March. The tentative date for a report to the Security Council was 10 March with a Council meeting on 26 March.

A correspondent (Mr. Oatis, Associated Press) said that in his statement the Secretary-General had called for an end to the bombing, talks between United States and North Viet-Nam and then that South Viet-Nam and the National Liberation Front be brought into the talks. Today, he said, Hanoi had said that the United States had reasserted the San Antonio formula, which it rejected, and that Hanoi rejected any question of "the Thieu-Ky clique" being put on an equal footing with the National Liberation Front. Since, the correspondent continued, one side had rejected one part of his proposals and the other side had rejected the other part. Did the Secretary-General maintain his position or was he going to drop it or revise it.

Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had nothing to add to his statement and he stood by every word of it.

Asked if the Secretary-General had received a direct response from Hanoi or Washington to his statement he said he could not answer that question.

A correspondent said there was every indication that the conflict was intensifying and would intensify further. Did the Secretary-General propose to continue his contacts with Hanoi and Washington?

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Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General intended to continue his efforts. And his contacts? And his contacts, he replied.

Asked if the Secretary-General communicated directly with Hanoi and whether, if a reply was received, communications from Hanoi would be put out on the U Thant as those of the Swedes, Danes, Finns and French had been, Mr. Nassif said he could not answer the question. He gave the same reply to a correspondent who asked if the Secretary-General had seen Mr. Goldberg since the statement of last Saturday.

A correspondent said that the Secretary-General would see Mr. Goldberg at the UNDP lunch today. Mr. Nassif said Mr. Goldberg had been invited but he did not think that was the point of the previous question.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

4 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell read out the following statement:

"Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East, who arrived at United Nations Headquarters on the evening of 28 February 1968, has completed the consultations which were the purpose of his visit. He had extensive conversations with the Secretary-General and members of the Secretariat concerned with his Mission. He also met with a number of Permanent Representatives. Ambassador Jarring will return to his headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus, on Tuesday, 5 March to resume his efforts."

Asked where Mr. Jarring was now, Mr. Powell said he had left on Saturday evening to return to Nicosia via Sweden. He had gone to Sweden on personal business. Asked for some indication of the permanent representatives Mr. Jarring had seen, he said that at Mr. Jarring's request none of his appointments, other than those with the Secretary-General, had been given out. Asked whom he had seen in the Secretariat, other than Mr. Bunche, he said Mr. Jarring had, for instance, seen the field service people concerned with his mission.

Asked if Mr. Jarring had managed to contact the Syrians while in New York, Mr. Powell said he did not know.

A correspondent asked if it could be said that Mr. Jarring had left "with the good wishes and encouragement of the Secretary-General", Mr. Powell said that certainly could be said. Asked if, after three months, Mr. Jarring's mission was in such a state that all he had was "the good wishes and encouragement of the Secretary-General", Mr. Powell said the question was an unfair one.

Reminded that in the statement announcing that Mr. Jarring was coming to Headquarters, it was said that he would hold consultations on "a new stage" and asked what was the situation now, Mr. Powell said the situation was as stated -- Mr. Jarring "has completed the consultations which were the purpose of his visit".

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Asked what were the "efforts" referred to in today's statement, Mr. Powell said he did not know what were Mr. Jarring's plans on his return to Nicosia but he hoped to be able to give an indication in the next couple of days.

Asked again what specifically were his "efforts", Ramses Nassif said they were to implement the Security Council's resolution on the Middle East. Mr. Powell read out the relevant paragraph referring to the special representative.

He said in reply to another question that the mission was open-ended.

A number of questions were asked about the statement made on Saturday (Note No. 3428 which refers to a passage in a New York Times story of that date saying "Members of the Secretariat, however, believe the Arabs would be willing to meet in the same room with the Israelis provided the negotiations were under the direction of a United Nations chairman").

Asked for an explanation of the note, Mr. Powell read it out. Asked what was "completely groundless", he said the opinions attributed to the Secretariat. You didn't give out any opinion? No. The opinions themselves are groundless? Yes.

The appointments are the representatives of Yugoslavia, Yemen and United States, each at the request of the individual concerned.

The Peace-Keeping Committee is meeting this afternoon for a general discussion and to consider its order of work with the Soviet Union, Canada and United Kingdom listed to speak.

Mr. Powell said in reply to a question that he would check if there was a firm date for a meeting of the committee on the ocean floor.

He said in reply to a request that the text of the letter from a United States firm asking for a United Nations license to explore certain areas of the ocean floor and the Secretariat's reply could not be released but, as previously stated, the Secretariat reply had said that at this time the United Nations was not in a position to grant such a request.

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5 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said no cable had as yet been received from Nicosia on Mr. Jarring's arrival. He was due to return there today, taking his own jet from Rome.

The Secretary-General's appointments are Niger (credentials) and the representatives of Hungary and the Soviet Union. Asked the purpose of appointment with Hungary and the Soviet Union (jointly) Ramses Nassif said he believed that it was for the deposit of a treaty of friendship between the two countries. This was the rescheduling of an appointment from yesterday.

Mr. Powell said that at 4 p.m. today the Secretary-General would meet informally, in the Hammarskjold Auditorium, with the Fund for Area Development. Among those attending would be Mayor Lindsay, Ambassador Goldberg, a representative of the Ford Foundation and Mr. Harrison, the United Nations architect.

He recalled that in December 1966 the Secretary-General had reported to the Fifth Committee on the need for more office space and had said that the Fund was at its own expense making a study on the availability, as a donation to the United Nations, of an area south of the Headquarters site now owned by the City of New York and Consolidated Edison.

Today he said the Fund would inform the Secretary-General of its tentative preliminary findings. No formal proposals would be presented. There would be nothing to say after the meeting.

Mr. Powell was asked to find what was the position regarding proposals to build on the West side of the Headquarters site, particularly in regard to the International School. He said he would do so after emphasizing that those proposals had nothing to do with the Fund.

Replying to questions asked at earlier briefings he said the sea-bed committee would meet on 18 March. The time would depend on a possible meeting of the Security Council that day on Cyprus. He said he did not have a full list of participants for the meeting. A background release would be issued when the full list was available.

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In reply to a question he said the committee's first meeting would be open. It would then decide the procedure for future meetings.

He said, in reply to another question, that he would check when Part I of the report of sea resources would be available.

Regarding the resumed session he said the expectation was that it would last from three to four weeks and dates in the second half of April were still being mentioned but there was nothing official.

The peace-keeping committee would meet again at 3 p.m. tomorrow with the United States the only speaker listed so far.

He had no speakers as yet for the Security Council meeting this afternoon. Consultations were still continuing.

Asked when a report would be available on Cyprus he said he understood a report was being prepared for reproduction over the weekend.

Asked if Mr. Rossides had brought a message from President Makarios when he saw the Secretary-General yesterday Mr. Nassif said he had not.

To a question on whether the Secretary-General was planning a report on the Middle East "or if we have to wait and wait" (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service), Mr. Nassif said he knew of no immediate plans for a report.

A correspondent said that when Mr. Jarring had come to New York it had been indicated that "a new stage" was being considered for his mission. Had a decision been made to enter this new stage, and what did it involve? Mr. Powell replied, as yesterday, that Mr. Jarring had concluded his consultations and was returning to Nicosia today to continue his efforts.

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6 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments, with the Director-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the representatives of Norway, United States, Morocco, Haiti and the President of the Security Council, were each at the request of the individual concerned.

Replying to questions asked previously he said the feasibility study on the building of the International School at First Avenue and 40th Street was well in progress and a report would be made to the General Assembly at its next session as asked for by the last Assembly.

Also, he said, part I of the seabed report was expected to be available around 15 March. In reply to a question he said he expected it to be for spot release since other parts of the report had also been issued on that basis.

Ramses Nassif said he had had a number of questions today about reaction to the hangings in Southern Rhodesia. He said "The Secretary-General was shocked to hear this news".

William Powell said Tanzania had proposed a consensus on this matter in the Human Rights Commission this morning. If and when it was adopted OPI would attempt to make it available as a separate release.

Asked if a request had been made for a Security Council meeting on this matter he said there had not been one.*

Asked if any papers would be available for the meeting of the seabed committee he said he would check.

The rest of the briefing was devoted to questions on reaction to, mail about and usage of the Secretary-General's statement of 24 February on Viet-Nam.

Asked about responses from individuals to the statement, Mr. Nassif said he had just received the file and was himself sorting out. He said, when asked if the mail was encouraging or enthusiastic, that 99 per cent of the letters and cables seemed to be in favour of U Thant's position. In reply to another question he said there were about 120 messages from the United States and a few from Canada.

* After the briefing it was announced that the Committee of 24, which had not been scheduled to meet today, would meet at 3:30 p.m. today "to consider the situation created by the hanging of the prisoners in Southern Rhodesia".

Asked if he would divulge sample comments he said he would not. If the personal mail of the Secretary-General was to be released he said there would be no end to it.

A correspondent (Miss Weill-Tuckerman, A.F.P.) said the number did not sound tremendous. It would be necessary to know what mail was received everyday to make an evaluation "but it can be said now that the statement has not started a deluge", she stated.

William Powell said it would be awfully difficult to find out what mail was addressed to the Secretary-General everyday. If a school girl in Peoria Illinois wanted a list of members of the United Nations her letter might be addressed to the Secretary-General.

Asked if the 120 letters was regarded as a greater number than usual on such a subject Mr. Powell said he did not know. Asked if one of the Secretary-General's secretaries could evaluate the normal amount of mail received Mr. Nassif said he would try to answer all questions on this subject tomorrow.

To a question on what usage had been made of the statement by radio and television and what editorial comment there had been Mr. Powell said the United Nations did not have a clipping service and did not have the resources to make an evaluation. In the United States, for example, the material was fed to network headquarters which then gave it to their stations. It was up to the station to decide whether to use it and there was no nationwide monitoring service.

Asked why the United Nations had not made a survey since it had paid for satellite transmission Mr. Powell said this was not the case. The satellite transmission had been ordered by the European Broadcasting Union and paid for by some 17 or 18 contributing countries.

Asked for a report of actual usage from the satellite transmission, Paul Jankowski said it had been used by Intravision and sent to both West and East Europe. Ray Klein added that the cost was such that the order would not have been made if the material was not to be used.

A correspondent (Mr. Raghavan, Press Trust of India) said this was only an hypothesis. Facts had not been given on usage.

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Asked if the United Nations Information Centres reported on use and comment Mr. Powell said not necessarily. In any case he did not intend to begin giving out the cables from the centres.

Asked if the centres did in fact report on what the papers were saying he said they sometimes did briefly. For example he had seen a summary of Paris editorial comment.

A correspondent said that Mr. Nassif had said he would give information on letters received. Why then was it not possible to give out the information from the cables from the centres? Mr. Powell said the cases were different. One concerned letters from individuals, the other concerned official cables.

Another correspondent (Don Grant, St. Louis Post Dispatch) said it seemed clear that the OPI had taken a policy decision not to give out a comprehensive reflection of coverage of, and reaction to, the Secretary-General's statement. Mr. Powell said that some years ago the OPI had put out a coup d'oeil of newspaper views around the world but this had been discontinued at the insistence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The OPI no longer could do the survey requested.

Asked to give a list of countries responding to the Secretary-General's statement and whether their reaction was negative or positive, Mr. Nassif said he would look that up.

He was also asked to find out the Secretary-General's reaction to the responses and whether he regarded them as a small number. Mr. Nassif replied "I have been sticking my neck out. I have been trying to get you an answer to a question on reaction you have asked seven or eight times at the briefings."

A correspondent (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe) said the answer had been a long time in coming. Mr. Nassif replied that only about two weeks had passed since the statement. The correspondent responded that two weeks was a long time to pass when editors had to be convinced about a story on reaction.

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7 March 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell pointed out that the Human Rights Commission had this morning adopted a consensus on the illegal hangings in Rhodesia. He said the Committee of 24, which has a resolution before it on this subject, had recessed for consultations on the resolution.

The only appointment so far is with the representative of Greece at the Ambassador's request.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a press release announcing that Mr. Jarring was on a one day visit to Cairo (MEM/28).

Replying to questions asked earlier on documentation for the seabed committee (due to meet 18 March) he pointed out that the resolution creating the committee spoke of the records of the First Committee being transmitted and also replies of Governments on the subject. These replies would be out as a document towards the end of next week.

Asked if a backgrounder would be put out on past efforts of the United Nations regarding the seabed, Mr. Powell pointed out that the seabed committee was asked to submit a report to the next Assembly, including a survey of past efforts.

To a question on whether the seabed committee would define jurisdiction over the seabed, he said the committee was also asked to indicate practical means to promote international co-operation regarding this environment. However, the committee was not a legal body and it would be up to the Assembly to decide what to do in the light of the report submitted to it.

Asked if the letter from a United States firm asking for a license regarding the seabed and the Secretariat reply would be included in the documentation before the committee, he said they would not since the letter was not addressed to the committee.

Asked for "the balance sheet of responses" to the Secretary-General's Viet-Nam statement, Ramses Nassif said a total of 127 messages had been received supporting the Secretary-General's position. They had been mostly letters and there had been

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a few telegrammes. Included in the total were some 40 individual calls from students at New York University expressing support for the Secretary-General's position and asking for copies of the statement in order to start discussions on the campus. There had been 17 messages against, specifically opposing an end of the bombing of North Viet-Nam. Three messages were classed as "miscellaneous".

Asked what these three messages were, Mr. Nassif said one had contained a peace plan by the sender; another had proposed that the United Nations take over both North and South Viet-Nam; and the third had been asking questions.

Mr. Nassif expressed regret that he had been so long in obtaining a reply to the persistent requests for a tabulation of responses.

Later in the briefing he was asked if the Secretary-General was encouraged by the responses and how the volume of mail compared with responses to previous statements on Viet-Nam. He replied to both questions that he did not know.

Asked if the Secretary-General had seen all the letters sent, he said he had. He said in reply to other questions that each letter was acknowledged but the Secretary-General did not sign the acknowledgements himself and that the Secretary-General had not himself spoken to the students ringing from New York University.

When asked if he would go through the mail received the last time the Secretary-General had made a statement on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif replied: "No. The Secretary-General does not wish to make his private mail public. This was a very unusual case and I may have put my foot in it by trying to help you. Let us now regard the chapter as closed."

Asked what Governments had responded to the Secretary-General's statement, he said no more than those previously mentioned. He said in reply to a question that the Secretary-General had acknowledged receipt of the statements by the Governments concerned.

On the subject of Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif was asked if the Secretary-General was continuing his efforts and contacts and he replied that to the best of his knowledge he was.

A correspondent referred to a report (today's New York Times, page 6) out of Geneva stating that the United Nations had told the Swiss Government that the

(more)

Palais des Nations would be available for peace negotiations on Viet-Nam if the Swiss Government succeeded in bringing them about.

Mr. Nassif said: "The Secretary-General is not aware that the Geneva Office has informed the Swiss Government that the Palais des Nations is available for peace talks. He himself has privately told Governments that if and when a peace conference takes place the facilities of the Palais are available for such a conference."

Asked if the Secretary-General had made this offer recently, Mr. Nassif said the offer had been made several times in the last couple of years. Asked if the Secretary-General had made the offer on his recent trip, Mr. Nassif said his impression was that it had been made before then.

A correspondent (Mr. Raghavan, Press Trust of India) repeated the question he has asked on several occasions -- the Secretary-General gave Mr. Johnson an assessment of his talks with representatives of North Viet-Nam; has the Secretary-General, directly or indirectly, conveyed to Hanoi his assessment of his talks with Mr. Johnson? Mr. Nassif replied "no comment".

Asked what "no comment" meant, Mr. Nassif said it meant the Secretary-General did not wish to answer at this time. Did this mean "an answer will be given at an appropriate time"? Mr. Nassif replied, let us hope so.

A correspondent asked for comment on a statement made yesterday by the Israeli Ambassador to Washington to the National Press Club in which the Ambassador is reported to have said that Israel would not give up an inch of territory without an overall peace settlement and emphasizing the necessity of face-to-face negotiations with the Arabs; Mr. Powell said there was no comment.

Asked for comment on reports that Mr. Jarring was issuing or had issued invitations to the parties to go to Nicosia, Mr. Powell said that all he was authorized to say now, as in the past, was that Mr. Jarring had returned to the Middle East and was continuing his efforts.

Mr. Powell said, in reply to a question, that there was no request for a Security Council meeting on Rhodesia although he had heard speculation that such a request might come. There was nothing new regarding the South West Africa meetings. Consultations were continuing.

Asked about a meeting on Cyprus, he said a report was expected to be available early next week and a meeting of the Council was likely any time after 15 March. The mandate of the Force expired on 26 March.

(more)

Asked if he expected a meeting on Rhodesia before the weekend, he said he had no idea. Asked if he believed a request would be made for a Council meeting at some point, he said he would not be surprised but that was a purely personal view not attributable to anybody.

A correspondent pointed out that the Assembly had asked the Secretary-General to submit a report on the return of inhabitants to the territories occupied by Israel. There was now a story that the former Mayor of Jerusalem had been expelled to Jordan. When was the Secretary-General going to make his report? Mr. Powell said he did not know, but would ask. Asked if any Government had asked for an early report, he said not that he knew of.

Asked if there was a report on the bombings in the Eastern part of Jerusalem, Mr. Powell replied that the United Nations did not have any observers in that sector.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

8 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the appointments, with the Representative of Tunisia and the Acting Permanent Observer of the Federal Republic of Germany, were each at the request of the individual concerned.

He said that yesterday he had been asked about a letter from Ireland regarding the illegal hangings in Rhodesia. He said a letter from Ireland had been received and would be available as a Security Council document today. It did not ask for a Council meeting. It expressed the hope that the Council would ensure that democracy was restored in Rhodesia.

Mr. Powell said consultations were continuing regarding the South West Africa resolution but he had no indication when the Council might meet. No request had been received for a meeting on Southern Rhodesia.

Also to be issued today as a Council document is a letter from Jordan protesting the expulsion of the former Mayor of East Jerusalem to Jordan.

Mr. Powell read out the following statement attributable to a United Nations spokesman: "Enquiries have been made about an interview with General Itshak Rabin, the recently appointed Ambassador of Israel to the United States, published in "Le Monde" of 29 February 1968, in the course of which there were certain references to the withdrawal of UNEF. In this connexion the Permanent Representative of Israel has confirmed to the Secretary-General that the position of the Government of Israel in this matter is as stated by Israel's representatives in the Security Council and the General Assembly, and, specifically, by Ambassador Raphael on 3 June 1967 at the 1346th meeting of the Security Council^{1/} and by Foreign Minister Eban of Israel, in the 1528th session of the General Assembly^{2/} on 20 June 1967."

(more)

^{1/} S/PV.1346, p. 6.

^{2/} A/PV.1528, p. 29-30.

(The story in Le Monde, in part, quotes Ambassador Rabin as saying, in reply to a question on whether he believed President Nasser intended to close the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel shipping:

"He originally called for the withdrawal of the 'blue helmets' only from the portion of the frontier between Rafah and Kuntilla, and he suggested that the United Nations troops should fall back on Gaza and on Sharm-El-Sheikh (which commands the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba). Unfortunately, U Thant forced him to choose: either to keep the international force at all its positions or to request its total and definitive withdrawal. I believe, in fact, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations made this demand public even before President Nasser had received it. Nasser, in order not to lose face, chose to touch off the Aqaba crisis.")

Mr. Powell said he apologized for not having the verbatim text of the statements by Mr. Raphael and Mr. Eban but copies would be available upstairs after the briefing. He said it would be seen that these statements were somewhat different from the views attributed to Mr. Rabin.

Asked if the spokesman's statement meant that the Israel Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Tekoah, had confirmed the statements of Mr. Raphael and Mr. Eban, since the views of Mr. Rabin were published, Mr. Powell said that was the case. The matter had been raised in one of the meetings with the Secretary-General recently and the Permanent Representative had confirmed that Israel's position was as stated by Mr. Raphael and Mr. Eban.

A correspondent asked if there was now any comment on the views attributed to Mr. Rabin in Washington. Mr. Powell replied, as yesterday, that there was no comment.

Another correspondent recalled that during the emergency session, Mr. Eban had made a statement and then the Secretary-General had replied. Mr. Powell said this was so. The statement by Mr. Eban referred to today was the one he made after the Secretary-General's intervention.

Another correspondent said the position of Mr. Raphael and Mr. Eban vis-a-vis Mr. Rabin was different. Was the United Nations spokesman saying that Mr. Rabin was incorrect? Yes. Was the United Nations spokesman repudiating the Rabin view? Mr. Powell said he could only say that the matter was raised with Israel's Permanent Representative who had been made aware of the Le Monde interview and had confirmed that Israel's position was as stated by Mr. Raphael and Mr. Eban.

(more)

Asked if the report of the request for a partial withdrawal by President Nasser was incorrect, Mr. Powell said a report on the withdrawal of UNEF was a public document. Asked if there was some document on the request for a partial withdrawal that had not been seen, Mr. Powell said there was not.

Asked if Mr. Rabin had been Chief of Staff of the Israeli forces during the war, Mr. Powell said he did not have a biography. (A number of correspondents said Mr. Rabin had been the Chief of Staff.)

A correspondent said that a number of former residents of Kenya had been denied entry into the country of their origin. Were they now stateless and could they receive a Nansen passport? Mr. Powell said the matter had not been brought before the United Nations or to the attention of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations could not comment on the nationality laws of a member State.

Asked how it was decided that an individual was stateless, he said the mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees had been drawn up in 1950 and then revised in 1965 or 1966. His mandate was concerned with refugees whose status was affected by World War II or subsequent events.

Asked who could approach the High Commissioner of Refugees regarding status, he said Governments. Asked if an individual could do so, he said he could not.

If a stateless person, by definition, had no State, what State could approach the High Commissioner? Any interested Government, Mr. Powell replied. If there was no interested State, what happened?

At this point Mr. Powell declined to continue conducting the seminar on the grounds that no Government had brought the matter originally raised before the United Nations and the questioning was purely hypothetical.

Asked if the International Court of Justice was competent to consider the matter, he said it was for the Court to decide its own competence. Asked who could bring matters before the Court, he said Governments or competent bodies of the United Nations.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

11 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's report on Cyprus would be available this afternoon, probably between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. (document S/8446). It is about 60 pages long. The English and French versions will be available simultaneously.

Regarding the documentation for the sea-bed committee he said the replies from Governments had now gone down for reproduction. It was rather lengthy document of some 100 pages and would not be distributed until Thursday or Friday.

The Secretary-General's appointment with the representative of Turkey is at the latter's request.

Regarding the Security Council he said there were no firm developments. The African Group was meeting this morning regarding Southern Rhodesia. Consultations were continuing regarding the South West Africa resolution.

Replying to questions asked before the briefing regarding the luncheon to be given by the Secretary-General today, at 1:15 p.m., for Aram Khatchaturian he said the guest list, besides the composer and his wife, was Mrs. K. Georgian (his accompanist), Mr. and Mrs. Morozov, Lev Yadroshnikov (interpreter), Mr. and Mrs. Bunche, Mr. and Mrs. Nestorenko, Mr. and Mrs. Nosek, Mr. Rolz-Bennett, Mrs. Tin Myint U (the Secretary-General's daughter) and Miss Julia Henderson.

Mr. Powell drew attention to an OPI booklet, issued today in connexion with Human Rights Year, entitled "The United Nations and Human Rights", and a press release summarizing it (HR/119).

Ramses Nassif then read out the following statement in response to queries before the briefing: "In spite of the decisions taken by various United Nations bodies, the appeal by His Holiness the Pope, and the universal condemnation of the illegal and savage acts of the Salisbury regime, more executions have just taken place. The Secretary-General wishes to reiterate his sense of shock at these brutal and repressive acts in defiance of world public opinion."

(more)

A correspondent said it seemed that the resumed session was to take place in April. Would the non-proliferation item go before the First Committee? Mr. Powell replied that there was nothing official yet, but the speculation was that the session would take place in the second half of April. Depending on what items were discussed the Assembly might meet only in Plenary or need to activate committees. A report from the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was expected by 15 March. A decision on the form of the Assembly depended on the results of the consultations which would have to take place before the session opened.

Asked what would happen regarding any treaty evolving from the session Mr. Powell said he did not know what procedure was to be followed in this case. He recalled that in the case of the partial test ban treaty the treaty had been open for signature in three capitals. It was eventually registered with the Secretariat and then issued in the treaty series.

A correspondent said the Secretary-General and the United Nations in general were being discussed this morning in the televised Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings covering Viet-Nam, with the Secretary of State giving testimony. Could a statement be expected from the Secretary-General this afternoon? Mr. Nassif replied it could not. The Secretary-General had watched the proceedings on television this morning but he would have no comment whatsoever.

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12/3

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

12 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that Mr. de Ribbing was paying a courtesy call on the Secretary-General today and the Secretary-General would entertain him to lunch. The appointment with the President of the Security Council and with the representatives of Mali and the United States were at the request of the individuals concerned.

He said the meeting of the Security Council ^{on Cyprus} was tentatively set for the afternoon of Monday, 18 March. If that timetable was followed, the sea-bed committee would meet on the morning of 18 March.

Mr. Powell said there was nothing new regarding the Security Council. There might be an indication later in the day about a meeting on South West Africa for tomorrow. No request had as yet been received about a meeting on Rhodesia. (After a meeting of the African Group yesterday, the Chairman of that Group announced last night that the African members of the United Nations had decided to ask for an urgent meeting of the Council to discuss the whole question of Rhodesia. He indicated that a formal request might be made today.)

He said that Mr. Jarring was back in Nicosia. He might make further visits to the Middle East later in the week, but his travel plans were not firm at the moment.

Mr. Powell then announced that reference copies of the report on the international symposium on industrial development, held in Athens in November and December, were available in the Economic and Social Unit.

A correspondent said a report today suggested that a request would come in for a meeting of the Security Council on the Middle East because "the Jarring mission has reached a dead end". Did the Secretariat have any information on this? Mr. Powell said he had no information about such a request. Asked if he would agree that the Jarring mission had reached a dead end, he said he would not. As he had previously stated, Mr. Jarring was continuing his efforts.

Mr. Powell said, to anticipate a question, that no application for United Nations membership had been received from Mauritius (which became independent today).

(more)

Asked if the Secretary-General now wished to comment on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings Ramses Nassif said he did not.

A correspondent said that Mr. Rusk kept referring to the Secretary-General's 14 March 1967 proposals rather than the Secretary-General's February 1968 statement on Viet-Nam. Was there any comment on this? Mr. Nassif said he had no comment on the hearings as such, but he would refer correspondents to the Secretary-General's statement of 11 May 1967 on the question of the March proposals. (During the hearings Mr. Rusk has said that the United States accepted the Secretary-General's proposals of last March but North Viet-Nam rejected them. On 11 May the Secretary-General, at a United Nations Correspondents' Association lunch, stated "In view of...events...which have followed my proposals of 14 March for a general stand-still truce, I wish to put the record straight. You may all be aware by now that neither side has fully and unconditionally accepted those proposals, which must therefore be regarded as being no longer under consideration." (SG/SM/709). Subsequently the Secretary-General reverted to his original three points cessation of the bombing, de-escalation and talks among those actually fighting. These three points, he has said, are incorporated in his statement of 24 February 1968.)

Mr. Nassif was asked if he was going to refer Mr. Rusk to the 11 May statement. He replied that he was referring the questioner to it, and was not commenting on Mr. Rusk's remarks.

He was then asked if he would specifically ask the Secretary-General if he had any comment on Mr. Rusk's statement at the hearings that the United States had not received any assurances from any responsible person that North Viet-Nam had the slightest intention of de-escalating or reciprocating in any way to a bombing halt by the United States. Mr. Nassif replied that he would not expect any comment and referred the questioner to the 24 February statement. Asked if this was a comment on the Rusk remarks, he said he had not said anything about the Secretary of State's statement. What he was saying was that the Secretary-General had said everything he wanted to say for the present regarding Viet-Nam in the February statement.

(more)

Asked the position in the Security Council regarding "mini-States", Mr. Powell pointed out that the President for February had passed the question on to the President for March (S/8437).

To a question on whether the United Nations had given up its efforts to enlarge its observer team in the Middle East and on getting helicopters and craft for the Canal sector, Mr. Powell pointed out that the observers had been increased and said the question of helicopters and craft was still being raised by General Bull. He agreed with a correspondent who said this was taking a long time. Asked the reason for the delay he said he did not know.

Mr. Powell said he would pass on a request that Mr. ^{de}Ribbing meet correspondents to discuss his former mission to Cambodia and Thailand.

In reply to a question Mr. Nassif said the Soviet Union had not yet asked for an appointment with the Secretary-General for the presentation of credentials by the new Ambassador, Yakov Malik. (Yesterday the Soviet mission announced that Mr. Malik would arrive in New York today.)

Asked if the Secretary-General had been following the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings today, Mr. Nassif said he had been.

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13 March 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the Secretary-General had met today with the contributors of contingents to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom). He pointed out that the Secretary-General always did this before a meeting of the Security Council on the Force's mandate.

Asked if the countries involved had agreed to keep their contingents in the Force for another three months, he said this had undoubtedly come up this morning but he did not know the answer.

The Secretary-General's other appointments were with the representatives of the Soviet Union (credentials), Sweden, Jordan and India, each at the request of the individual concerned.*

Earl Foell, President of the United Nations Correspondents' Association (UNCA), said that efforts this week to have the new Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Malik, meet with correspondents in the UNCA club after presenting his credentials, had been unsuccessful. Mr. Malik had said, however, that he would meet correspondents on his way out of the building after meeting with the Secretary-General, a meeting he expected to last about 40 minutes, but he had nothing special to say. Mr. Malik had said he would come "to shake hands with correspondents" in the UNCA club some time next week.

Immediately after this announcement, Mr. Powell informed correspondents that a message had just been received saying that Mr. Malik would go to the UNCA club after his appointment with the Secretary-General to meet correspondents. When Mr. Malik left the 38th floor, an announcement would be made.

Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring was in Cyprus. He would go to Amman tomorrow to continue his consultations.

The only speaker so far in the Peace-keeping Committee meeting this afternoon was France, he said.

(more)
Regarding the Security Council, he said consultations were continuing on the South West Africa item. No date had been set for a meeting on this matter or on Southern Rhodesia. He announced that the representative of Morocco had also asked for an appointment.

(more)

The only speaker so far in the Peace-keeping Committee meeting this afternoon was France, he said.

Regarding the Security Council, he said consultations were continuing on the South West Africa item. No date had been set for a meeting on this matter or on Southern Rhodesia.

He said Chad had sent a letter to the Secretary-General regarding Southern Rhodesia. It would be available as a Council document this afternoon.

Mr. Powell said that a ceremony had taken place this morning in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) where Mr. Goldberg had pledged a \$400,000 contribution for 1968. This brought the total United States contribution to the Institute, paid and pledged, to \$1,100,000, in addition to the \$200,000 given for the Adlai Stevenson Memorial Scholarships.

Mr. Powell then introduced John Weston, the new Director of Public Information for the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Asked "is the Secretary-General going to comment on all the things he has been listening to", Ramses Nassif said there would be no comment at all on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings.

A correspondent said Mr. Rusk had said that the United States had accepted the Secretary-General's March 1967 proposals on Viet-Nam. This had not been the Secretary-General's view. Was there any comment? Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General's views were on the record in his 11 May statement. There was nothing to add.

Asked if OPI planned an effort to achieve a better public understanding of the position regarding the March proposals, Mr. Nassif said it did not.

Mr. Powell said "no" when asked "does Mr. Bunche intend to write a letter to Mr. Goldberg or Mr. Cisco on the subject" (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe.)

Asked for information on the appointment of Mr. Goldberg with the Secretary-General yesterday, Mr. Nassif said he had nothing on it. Mr. Powell said it had been at the United States representative's request.

A correspondent said even when an appointment was not at the Secretary-General's request, there had been times when the substance of the meeting had been made public by the United Nations. Mr. Nassif agreed that this had been done sometimes but in this case, he said the matter would be left to Mr. Goldberg.

(more)

Mr. Nassif was asked to check with the Secretary-General two specific questions (Mr. Jhabvala): (a) Before the Secretary-General spoke to representatives of North Viet-Nam in Delhi and Paris had he been aware that, as Mr. Rusk said at the hearings, the United States, through an intermediary, had been in the process of drawing up an agenda for possible discussions on Viet-Nam? (b) Was the Secretary-General the intermediary mentioned?

No

No

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14 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

Ramses Nassif said that the appointment with the Representative of Italy was at the Ambassador's request.

He said a background release on the sea-bed committee would be out shortly. The committee would be opened by the Secretary-General, who would make a statement, at 11 a.m. Monday 18 March.

In reply to questions Keith Beavan said the first session of the committee was expected to last from 18 March to 22 March. So far replies from Governments regarding the work of the United Nations in this environment numbered 21. The first 19 replies would be contained in a document to be issued tomorrow and the other replies would be issued later as addenda.

Mr. Nassif said that Mr. Jarring was in Amman today. Asked how long he would stay there, he said Mr. Jarring had not indicated the length of his stay.

A correspondent recalled that on Saturday the Secretary-General had said he might submit a report to the Security Council on the Middle East. Mr. Nassif said the Secretary-General had said he might submit such a report by the end of the month, but this would depend on the substance of the talks as reported by Mr. Jarring to the Secretary-General.

This then was only a possibility, not a certainty, a correspondent asked. Mr. Nassif replied that that was the case.

Asked if any delegation had indicated that a debate was desired on the Middle East at the resumed session, Mr. Nassif replied that he did not know.

Another correspondent recalled that the Secretary-General on Saturday had also said that he was thinking about submitting a new report on Rhodesia sanctions. Mr. Nassif said this report was not yet ready.

Replying to questions asked yesterday regarding an intermediary, who, Mr. Rusk had said, had been trying to draw up an agenda for talks with North Viet-Nam, and whether the Secretary-General knew about this and if U Thant was the intermediary involved, Mr. Nassif said the answer was "no" in both instances.

A correspondent (Mr. Mezerik, International Review Service) said "Since you have mentioned Mr. Rusk, does..." Mr. Nassif swiftly interrupted to say: "The subject is closed. There is nothing else."

Regarding the Security Council Mr. Beavan said, in reply to questions, that representatives of the sponsors of the South West Africa resolution before the Council and representatives of Council members seeking some changes had met again this morning but the results of these consultations were not known. As far as the Secretariat was aware the Council was still set for 3 p.m. today on this subject. The setting of a date for the Rhodesia debate presumably would be affected by the results of today's consultations.

Asked if there would be a week-end meeting of the Council the reply was that no indication of such an event had been received. There were no speakers listed as yet for the South West Africa debate.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

15 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that while nothing was set yet consultations were going on about the possibility of a Security Council meeting on Southern Rhodesia for Tuesday morning.*

He said the replies of Governments regarding the United Nations and the seabed would be out as a document about 3 p.m.

Regarding the appointments, he said they were all at the request of the individuals concerned except that with the representative of South Africa. The Secretary-General had asked for that appointment to discuss the carrying out of the resolution adopted last night (S/RES/246) on South West Africa.

The other appointments were with the Indian Ambassador to Washington, Bulgaria, Mr. de Ribbing, Austria, Yugoslavia and Cyprus. + Israel (?)

He drew attention to a press release backgrounder (L/T/207) on a United Nations Conference on Road Traffic to be held in Vienna in October. He said it was being issued early because it was of interest to trade journals, which were published monthly.

Asked what had happened to the meeting on investment promotion under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization auspices which, it was said, was supposed to meet today, Mr. Powell said he would check.

Asked what was the practice in the United Nations regarding "expunging the record" as had occurred, it was stated, in the Human Rights Commission, Mr. Powell said that was not what had happened. The Commission had voted on what should be in its report, not on deleting matters from the summary records. (On 13 March the Commission approved a Soviet amendment by which it deleted certain paragraphs from its draft report regarding an exchange between the Soviet and United States delegations concerning alleged violations of freedom of information, in which secret trials of writers in the Soviet Union was raised.)

Correspondents then asked to see copies of the provisional summary records of the Human Rights Commission and there were a number of protests when Mr. Powell said they were no longer available to the press.

(more)

* After the briefing, it was announced that the Council would meet at 3 p.m. on Monday on Cyprus and 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday on Southern Rhodesia.

He said he was to discuss ~~this~~ matter with the department concerned this afternoon. The last Assembly had asked for a curb on the amount of documentation in the United Nations and the department concerned had decided to enforce rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council. (This states, in part, that the provisional summary records shall be distributed to members of the Commission and that the summary records, with any corrections, shall be distributed to all United Nations Members and may be consulted by the public.)

When asked the timelag between publication of the provisional summary record and the official record, he replied the difference in time had sometimes been up to one month. This information brought further protests.

Asked if the Secretary-General had received any response to his appeal, in his Cyprus report, for financial contributions regarding the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, Mr. Powell said he had not, but pledges might be made during the Council meeting on the subject on Monday.

He said he would check, in reply to a question, whether all the countries contributing contingents had agreed that they remain for a further three months.

In reply to other questions, he said the Secretary-General's Representative for Cyprus was working on the proposal by the Secretary-General that there be talks between the two communities regarding a settlement and the prospects for such talks were "fairly good".

Asked for information on the gold crisis, Mr. Powell suggested that the representative of the International Monetary Fund at Headquarters be consulted. He said, in reply to a question, that the matter was not before the Economic and Social Council.

Ramses Nassif said, in reply to a question, that there was no comment on reports that Mr. Jarring would resign if there was not any agreement regarding the Middle East by the end of April.

He said, in reply to another question, that there was no comment on any aspect of the Viet-Nam situation or the United States Senate Foreign Relations hearings.

Mr. Nassif announced that an application had been received from Mauritius for membership in the United Nations. It had come by letter and was signed by the Prime Minister.

(more)

Asked for comment on reports that the Prime Minister of South Africa had said that his answer to the United Nations was "No" regarding its resolution on South West Africa adopted in the Security Council last night, Mr. Nassif said there was none. Asked if the Secretary-General had taken note of this reply, he said the Secretary-General had seen the press reports. Asked if the Secretary-General would discuss this question with the South African Ambassador this afternoon, he said the subject of the meeting was the resolution. He could not say what specifically would be discussed.

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17/3/68

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

18 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that Earl Mountbatten of Burma had paid a courtesy call on the Secretary-General this morning. At 1 p.m., the Secretary-General would entertain Mayor John Lindsay of New York City at lunch. Mr. Powell noted, in this connexion, that the Mayor had recently held a luncheon in honour of the Secretary-General. Asked what they would discuss today, Mr. Powell said there was no formal agenda, it was a purely social occasion.

The Secretary-General, he said, had opened this morning's meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed, and had made a statement. The Committee had met briefly this morning without electing officers. It had then adjourned for further consultations among members, and would meet again tomorrow afternoon, 19 March. The Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations, which had been scheduled to meet tomorrow afternoon, had now been rescheduled for Wednesday, 20 March. The only speaker so far was Sweden.

Mr. Powell said that this afternoon the Secretary-General would greet members of the World Youth Forum while on his way to the Security Council meeting on Cyprus. Speakers listed so far for the meeting were Cyprus and the United Kingdom. Unofficially it was expected that the Security Council would be able to complete its consideration of this question this afternoon and go on to Southern Rhodesia tomorrow morning.

The Prime Minister of Somalia, Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, would pay a visit to the United Nations tomorrow, he said. The Prime Minister would confer with the Secretary-General and make a tour of the buildings. The Secretary-General would give a luncheon in his honour. In reply to a question, Mr. Powell said that the President of Paraguay was expected to visit the United Nations on Friday, 22 March, and the President of Liberia on Monday, 25 March.

Ramses Nassif said, in reply to earlier queries, that last Friday afternoon, 15 March, the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia, Anton Vratusa, had seen the Secretary-General and handed him a personal message from President Tito, containing President Tito's assessment of the international situation, particularly Viet-Nam. The Secretary-General would reply in due course. The message, and the Secretary-General's response, would not be made public.

(more)

Mr. Powell said that the International Coffee Agreement (1968) would be opened for signature this afternoon in the Office of the Legal Counsel. Asked if any signatures were expected today, he said he would check.

He drew attention to a backgrounder issued today on the Conference on the Law of Treaties, opening on 26 March in Vienna and expected to last two months (see press release L/1807).

He also drew attention to a message from David Morse, Director-General of the International Labour Office, embargoed for use in connexion with the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on Thursday, 21 March (see press release HR/123-ILO/1561). The text of a statement to be made by the Secretary-General at a joint meeting of the Human Rights Commission and the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid commemorating the International Day would be available shortly, embargoed until the time of the meeting on 21 March, he said. An advance story would be issued on the plans for the commemoration of the International Day.

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19 March 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said the Secretary-General's appointments were with the representative of Congo Brazzaville (credentials), the Prime Minister of Somalia (official visit and luncheon), presiding over the seabed committee until the election of a Chairman, the Security Council meeting on Rhodesia and with the representative of Cyprus at the latter's request.

He said Byelorussia would today sign the two covenants on human rights.

The report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to the General Assembly was being reproduced and should be out as a document tomorrow, he said.

In the Security Council, he said, Algeria, United Kingdom and India were listed to speak.* No draft resolution had been handed in to the Secretariat.

Mr. Powell drew attention to a press release issued yesterday on a United Nations expert mission on African population problems (SOC/3580). He also drew attention to the OPI pamphlet "The Threat of Nuclear Weapons", a series of questions and answers based on the Secretary-General's report on this subject, and a press release issued in conjunction (AC/455-GA/3582). He said this pamphlet was now available in English and was being prepared in 16 other languages.

Asked whether the Secretary-General believed that now the world was being adequately informed of the dangers of nuclear weapons, as he had suggested should be done in his Strasbourg speech, Ramses Nassif said U Thant believed that an initial step had been taken in the right direction. Mr. Powell said more language versions would be issued later. He pointed out that the Assembly's resolution on the subject had also asked member governments to make their public aware of the report.

A correspondent (Mr. Jhabvala, Boston Globe) asked Mr. Nassif to check whether recently the Secretary-General had received a communication from or had

(more)

* Subsequently it was announced that Ethiopia would also speak.

spoken on the telephone to Mai Van Bo (Delegate-General of the North Vietnamese mission in Paris). Mr. Nassif said he would do so.

Asked whether the Secretary-General felt that some of the candidates for the United States Presidency had adopted his three points on Viet-Nam, Mr. Nassif said that would be the last thing in the world the Secretary-General would wish to comment on.

[This question, and those following, apparently were prompted by a story in today's Boston Globe which analyzes statements made by Senators Kennedy and McCarthy recently on Viet-Nam and suggests that what they are using -- without attribution -- are the Secretary-General's views on the subject. The story also says that Senator Kennedy and Governor Rockefeller will see the Secretary-General before the end of the month and says that Mayor Lindsay of New York discussed the Viet-Nam question with the Secretary-General yesterday. (The Mayor did come to the United Nations yesterday but the subject of the talk with the Secretary-General was not disclosed. Last night the Mayor made a speech advocating an end of the bombing of North Viet-Nam and a coalition government in the South.)]

Asked if the Secretary-General had seen George Lindsay (the Mayor's brother and an active campaigner for Governor Rockefeller), Mr. Nassif said he would check.

Asked if the Secretary-General was to see Senator Kennedy, Mr. Nassif said he knew of no date for such a meeting. The last time the two men had met was on 1 February at the lunch for Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

A correspondent (Mr. Jhabvala) asked if Mr. Nassif was denying that the Secretary-General was to see Mr. Kennedy or Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Nassif said he was not denying anything. Nobody had asked about Mr. Rockefeller so far. The correspondent said the Secretary-General had yesterday told him that Mr. Rockefeller was coming to see him before the end of the month.

Asked if the Secretary-General was to see Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Nassif said he would check.

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20 March 1968

DAILY OPI PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that the appointments were with the representatives of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway (together, to deliver memoranda on their stand-by forces for United Nations peace-keeping operations; memoranda which have also been submitted to the peace-keeping committee); the President of the United States United Nations Association; the representative of Senegal; and the representative of the United States. All are at the request of those concerned. ?

He said he had been too optimistic yesterday in suggesting that the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament would be out today. Certain annexes had not been delivered and had been cabled for. The report would now be available either Friday afternoon or Monday morning.

He said Mr. Jarring was in Amman today (press release MEM/32).

Mr. Powell said he had been asked to announce additional signatories to the coffee agreement as they came about. The Central African Republic was signing today. Also today the Ukraine had signed the two covenants on human rights.

In the Security Council this afternoon, he said India, Canada and France were listed to speak. There was no indication of a draft resolution at the moment.

Ramses Nassif replied to two questions asked yesterday. He said the Secretary-General did not know George Lindsay. Regarding an alleged communication or telephone call from the Delegate-General of North Viet-Nam in Paris, he said "Obviously this relates to Viet-Nam and the Secretary-General has nothing to add at this time to his 24 February statement. He therefore does not wish to comment on this matter at this time."

A correspondent said Mr. Nassif was not denying the communication. Mr. Nassif replied he was not confirming anything either.

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Q/2

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

21 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced that the Secretary-General was preparing a brief report to the Security Council concerning the Middle East situation (to be issued shortly as document S/7930/Add.64). In response to questions, he said the report was based on information from General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine. He added that there were no observers at the scene of today's fighting (between Israel and Jordan forces).

The report would be presented in writing, he stated. The Secretary-General was not planning to make an oral statement at the Council meeting (called at the request of Jordan).

The Secretary-General's appointments were: the Permanent Representative of Jordan (at his request); the representatives of Nicaragua, Romania, Malta and Nigeria, Chairmen of the regional groups, invited by the Secretary-General to consult on the date of the resumed session of the General Assembly; the representative of Thailand, and the representative of Hungary.

Mr. Powell said the Secretary-General would speak at 3:30 p.m. today at a special meeting of the Committee on Apartheid to commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Other speakers would be the Prime Minister of Somalia, the Chairman of the Apartheid Committee and a Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights ^{of Sweden}. The texts of the statements by the Secretary-General and the Committee and Commission officers were available as press releases. (The statement by the Prime Minister will also be issued as a press release.)

He said that the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament was now available (document A/7072 and Add.1)

(more)

The Secretary-General had addressed a message (press release SG/SM/915) to a meeting of non-governmental organizations to commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Powell announced. The meeting would be at Community Church this evening.

Asked whether the Security Council meeting on Southern Rhodesia would be held as scheduled (at 4:30 p.m.), he said the Council President would presumably make an announcement about this.

To another query, he answered that Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, had planned to visit Jerusalem today but no cable had been received to confirm that he had done so. Mr. Jarring had flown from Amman to Nicosia last night.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

22 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell announced the speakers for the Security Council this afternoon and the Secretary-General's appointments for today. He also said that the guest list for the Secretary-General's luncheon for the President of Paraguay would be posted after the briefing.

Also he said that Kenya had signed the Coffee Agreement bringing the number of signatories to 13. The report on the mineral resources of the sea would be issued on 29 March, he said, and an embargoed text of the Secretary-General's filmed message for the World Assembly on Human Rights in Montreal today had been issued this morning.

Mr. Powell also said that Ambassador Jarring had been in Jerusalem yesterday and that, at the request of the Israeli authorities, he was paying a further one-day visit to Jerusalem today.

Questions were asked as to the date of the resumed General Assembly session, and Mr. Powell said that the date had not yet been set.

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

25 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General's luncheon today in honour of President William S. Tubman of Liberia would be held in the Library Penthouse. There would be 40 guests. The list would soon be posted.

Mr. Powell said that Madagascar had indicated that it would sign the International Coffee Agreement, 1968, today, bringing the total of signatories to 14.

Asked if there was any news from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) regarding the Karameh camp, Mr. Powell said no. It was an UNRWA camp but many of them had no international personnel. He presumed that Laurence Michelmore, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, would get a report on the situation there, and it would be up to Mr. Michelmore to decide what to do with it. Another correspondent noted that press reports stated that the camp had been evacuated by refugees. Did UNRWA still have people there? he asked. Did UNRWA provide the camp with provisions? Mr. Powell replied that he did not know what the situation was there, since the attack of 21 March. There was a town of Karameh, and the camp was on its outskirts. He suggested that correspondents who wanted details about the situation might contact the UNRWA liaison officer here, Mrs. Anne Kalessis, who would try to get the information for them.

Asked if it was still the Secretary-General's contention that the stationing of United Nations Observers in the Jordan-Israel sector required authorization by the Security Council, Ramses Nassif said that it was -- and that it also required the consent of both parties.

Asked about press reports that the United Arab Republic's ambassador in Cyprus, Mustafa Lotfy, had been meeting periodically with Gunnar Jarring, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Middle East, who makes his headquarters on Cyprus, Mr. Powell said, "As a matter of principle, we never comment on any aspect of Mr. Jarring's mission". To further questions, he said

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that this was "at Mr. Jarring's specific request". Asked where Mr. Jarring would be going this week, he said that Mr. Jarring, who was in Nicosia, did not give advance notice of his visits to the various capitals, nor did he give out information on whom he saw on those visits.

A question was asked about an escalator accident this morning at Headquarters. Mr. Powell said that he had not heard about it until now and would check. (Later, it was learned that five visitors to Headquarters had been treated at the United Nations clinic for sprains and bruises.)

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26/3/68

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

26 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said that the Secretary-General was meeting today with the Chairmen of the various groups of delegations on the date for the resumed session of the General Assembly. Mr. Powell said he hoped that an announcement on the date could be made by the end of this week.

This afternoon, he said, the Secretary-General would open the exhibit of the United Nations Art Club, on behalf of UNICEF, and as in other years, would make a few extemporaneous remarks.

The representatives of the Dominican Republic, Japan and the Ivory Coast were expected to sign the International Coffee Agreement, 1968, today, making a total of 17 signatories so far.

In reply to questions yesterday about the situation at the Karameh camp in Jordan, scene of the fighting on 21 March, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General, in a report on 2 March (document S/8435), had pointed out that, as a result of military incidents in February, there had been a considerable evacuation of refugees from Karameh and other camps operated by UNRWA in the area. As of 1 March, the number of refugees in the Karameh camp was down to about 500. Last Friday, 22 March, the camp had been visited by Robert Fisher, Director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, along with members of his staff and Jordanian officials. Mr. Fisher had reported that an UNRWA distribution centre had been destroyed and three rooms of a girls' school demolished. No casualties had been reported among UNRWA employees, but a few refugees might have been among the injured. The school had reopened on Saturday, 23 March, and the distribution of rations to refugees remaining in the camp was continuing.

Asked how many refugees were there now, Mr. Powell said he did not know. It was quite possible that more had left during March. In reply to further questions, he said that there had at one time been more than 23,000 in the Karameh camp. He did not have a maximum figure. Asked if the Secretary-General was required under the Security Council's resolutions to make reports on the situation, he said he would check.

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On other matters, a correspondent said that Malaysia was reported to have complained to the United Nations about the intrusion of Filipino commandos into Sabah. Ramses Nassif said that last Saturday, 23 March, the chargé d'affaires of the Malaysian delegation had given the Secretary-General a letter for his information, stating that Malaysia had protested to the Philippines about the intrusion of "certain terrorists" into Sabah, but had not asked for any action. This information had been given out by the United Nations press officer on duty that day.

Asked if the Secretary-General had received a communication from South Africa, rejecting the Security Council's resolution on the trial of the South West Africans, Mr. Nassif said he did not think so but he would check. Mr. Powell noted that the Secretary-General was to report on compliance with the resolution by the end of this month.

A correspondent asked for the list of candidates the Secretary-General was considering for the post of his representative in the consultations with the peoples of West Irian, as the appointment was to be made by 1 April. Mr. Powell said he understood that the Secretary-General had made his decision and the announcement would be made before 1 April. No names could be given out now. Mr. Powell added that copies of an OPI booklet on the United Nations operation in West Irian, including the text of the agreement providing for these consultations and the appointment of the Secretary-General's representative a year in advance of the act of choice, would be available.

Asked about the proposed talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, Mr. Powell said that no substantive talks had yet begun. However, Bibiano Osorio-Tafall, the Secretary-General's representative in Cyprus, was now discussing with the parties the modalities for the talks.

Asked about the situation at the second UNCTAD Conference in New Delhi, due to end today, Mr. Powell said that no cables had been received so far today. Press reports indicated that the plenary meeting scheduled for this morning had been postponed for further consultations among members.

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27/3

FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

27 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

At the regular OPI press briefing at noon today, William Powell said he had been authorized to say that the Secretary-General, following consultations with the Chairmen of the various groups of delegations, had recommended to the President of the General Assembly, Corneliu Manescu (Romania), that the Assembly resume on 24 April. The decision would be Mr. Manescu's; this was the Secretary-General's recommendation.

In listing the Secretary-General's appointments for today, Mr. Powell said that seven people representing the American International Plea for Peace, an organization with headquarters in Philadelphia, had given the Secretary-General, for his information, a copy of a letter being mailed today to the Heads of State or Government of 95 countries urging them to condemn in advance any possible use of nuclear weapons in Viet-Nam by the United States, under any circumstances. The Secretary-General had listened to them and had said that his position on Viet-Nam was well-known, having been stated many times. He had also given them copies of the United Nations report on the possible effects of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Powell listed the seven people as: Katherine Camp, National President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Dorothy Hutchinson, International Chairman of that organization; Ethel Taylor, member of the National Consultative Committee of that organization; Selma K. LeSchack, of the United States section of that organization; Anne Bennett, of the National Council of Churches; Sanford Gottlieb, Executive Director of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy; and Ruth Meyers, of Women Strike for Peace.

In reply to questions, Mr. Powell said that he did not know how this group had made its choice of 95 Governments, and that he did not know how many of these women were "Miss" or "Mrs". He assumed the American International Plea for Peace was a consortium of organizations. The group had not asked for the Secretary-General's endorsement, nor had it sought to add his name to the letter. The appointment had been more of a courtesy call.

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On other matters, Mr. Powell confirmed, in reply to questions, that the Secretary-General was giving a luncheon tomorrow, 28 March, for Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York, and on Friday, 29 March, he was giving a luncheon for George Woods, retiring President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Robert McNamara, the incoming President.

Asked if Richard Nixon planned to come, too, Mr. Powell said, "Ask him". Asked about President Johnson, Mr. Powell said he did not know of any appointment.

He said that Togo and New Zealand were signing the International Coffee Agreement, 1968, today, bringing the total of signatories to 19.

Also, in a ceremony at noon today, representatives of the United Nations and Japan had exchanged letters providing for an additional year of work -- from 1 April 1968 to 30 March 1969 -- by the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Institute had been established in Tokyo by an agreement signed in 1961 between the United Nations and Japan.

A correspondent (Bill Oatis, Associated Press) asked if it was the policy of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to give rations to members of the Al Fatah organization. Mr. Powell replied that UNRWA gave rations to people who held ration cards and were recognized as Palestine refugees. Asked about UNRWA's policy towards the use of its camps by Al Fatah, he said that correspondents should look in the UNRWA reports. Another correspondent remarked that UNRWA "does not discriminate against refugees for their leisure-time activities". Mr. Powell replied that these were "not concentration camps". The refugees were free to come and go. UNRWA was a humanitarian effort to provide food and shelter and, in some cases, education and vocational training, for the refugees. Asked if there were regulations against the use of firearms in the camps, Mr. Powell said that correspondents should look in the UNRWA reports. Asked if Israel would be asked for compensation for the demolitions at the Karamah camp in Jordan last week, he said he would check.

On South West Africa, a correspondent said there were Press reports of a plan by the Council for South West Africa to go to the territory. These reports contained firm dates and details. Mr. Powell said he believed that the Council had been discussing tentative travel plans but, as of now, no final decisions

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had been taken. There had been suggestions, which he believed would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council, expected to take place on Monday, 1 April. However, the Council itself had not taken any final decisions. When it did, an announcement would be made. In reply to questions, he said he was not aware of visas being granted to any members of the Council.

Asked about reports on the Secretary-General's choice of his representative for the consultations next year in West Irian, Mr. Powell said that the appointment would be made before the end of this month.

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28 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell said that at 12:15 p.m. the Chairman of the sea-bed committee, Mr. Amerasinghe (Ceylon), would hold a briefing at the request of correspondents.

He said the appointments of the Secretary-General were with Governor Rockefeller of New York (followed by lunch on the 38th floor), the representatives of Cameroon and Algeria (at their request), and the representative of Senegal (who is leaving; reception tonight on the 38th floor).

Today, he said, the following countries were signing the coffee agreement: Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela. On Friday the United Kingdom and Switzerland are to sign. The Office of Legal Affairs will remain open over the weekend since the agreement stipulates it shall be open for signature through 31 March.

Asked how many countries had signed so far, he said, the total would be 29, including those just announced as being about to sign. However, he said, there might be others during the day.

Mr. Powell said that Mr. Jarring was now in Nicosia. There was no information on further travel plans.

Asked if Mr. Jarring had met with the Ambassador of the United Arab Republic in Nicosia, as reported in some stories, Mr. Powell said that, as a matter of practice, there was no comment on aspects of Mr. Jarring's mission. The correspondent said his travel plans were announced. Mr. Powell said that was true, but no announcements were made regarding whom Mr. Jarring saw or what he discussed.

Ramses Nassif read out the guest list for the Rockefeller lunch. (The bulk of the briefing was consumed in spelling out the names of those attending and giving their titles, and included an absent-minded request for identification of the "William Powell" invited.)

In reply to questions, Mr. Nassif said the luncheon was a return invitation to Mr. Rockefeller for a luncheon he had given U Thant on 11 January 1967. A correspondent said that there was a time-gap between 12:45 p.m., when the Governor arrived on the 38th floor, and lunch, at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Powell said

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that time would be taken up with conversations. Asked if only Mr. Rockefeller and the Secretary-General would be present during the conversations, Mr. Powell said he would let correspondents know after the lunch. Mr. Nassif added that, to the best of his knowledge, the two would be alone.

Asked what was the title of General Rikhye (a guest at the lunch), Mr. Powell said it was Military Adviser to the Secretary-General. Asked how long General Rikhye had had this title, he said he had never relinquished it. He had retained the title while Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Mr. Nassif said a press release would be issued on the Secretary-General's message of condolences to Mr. Kosygin on the sudden death of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

A correspondent said it had been suggested to Leslie Slote (an assistant of the Governor and a guest at the lunch) that the Governor meet with correspondents by the Marc Chagall window after the lunch. Since Mr. Powell was going to the lunch, would he please convey this request also? Mr. Powell said everything would be done to keep the correspondents informed.

This brought an anguished cry of "No, no, no...." and Mr. Powell amended his reply to: "We will see if the Governor wants to speak to the Press and consult on where is best for anything he might wish to say."

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FOR INFORMATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT ONLY

29 March 1968

OPI DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

William Powell first announced that Israel had submitted a letter on the latest incidents but that no Council meeting had been requested so far. At a later stage in the briefing, he announced that there were two letters by Israel but that no request for a Security Council meeting had been made.

Mr. Powell then read out the Secretary-General's itinerary for his trip to Europe next week and announced today's appointments. He also announced that a ceremony would be held in the conference room on the 38th floor with the Secretary-General's presence at 12:30 p.m. at which the President of the United States Committee for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) would hand over a check for \$3,850,000 to Mr. Labouisse, the first part of the "Trick and Treat" collection by the United States organization. Mr. Powell also informed correspondents of the history of the United States Committee's campaign.

He added that, at another ceremony at 3 p.m. today, the Secretary-General would be handed an album of a recording of the Subb~~ul~~akshmi United Nations Day Concert in 1966.

Fernando Ortiz-Sanz, the Permanent Representative of Bolivia, had been appointed the Secretary-General's representative under article 17 of the agreement on West Irian, he said.

He also said Ambassador Jarring is in Nicosia and would start a further round of travel next week.

Ramses Nassif then read out the guest list for today's luncheon by the Secretary-General in honour of Mr. McNamara and Mr. Woods.

Replying to questions, Mr. Powell said that the Secretary-General's visit to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg was in response to a long-standing invitation. The travel plans for the Council for South West Africa would be discussed by a meeting of that body this afternoon.

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As to the Secretary-General's report on South West Africa, Mr. Powell said that it had to be completed by the end of this month but that he could not say when exactly it would be released. Mr. Nassif said that only one speech was scheduled by the Secretary-General during his forthcoming trip; it will be made in London and the text would be released here.

Mr. Powell promised to check on whether a letter had been received by the Secretary-General from the Philippines in connexion with the Sabah dispute.

Mr. Powell said that the letters by Israel would be read out only if that delegation would request it.

Mr. Nassif said "no" when asked whether the Secretary-General would comment on the Van Ky articles in War and Peace magazine.

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