General Assembly Reconvenes

U Thant outlines financial plight

Urgent action to meet the financial and constitutional crisis of the United Nations was called for in the General Assembly this week by the Secretary-General and the Assembly President, Alex-Quaisson-Sacey of Ghana.

U Thant, addressing the Assembly when it reconvened on Monday, January 18, appealed for "reasonable accommodations" to get the United Nations out of its present monetary straits and to ensure a more stable future, and Mr. Quaisson-Sacey urged the Assembly to record the consensus on bolstering the United Nations, on returning to normal Assembly voting procedures, and on avoiding a confrontation on the question of depriving the heavy delinquents of an Assembly vote.

Mr. Quaisson-Sacey also said he intended to wind up the Assembly's general debate this Friday, and proceed to elect Committee chairmen and Assembly vice-presidents next Monday. Normally, this would require formal voting - something the Assembly has agreed to dispense with during the general debate to avoid bringing the vote-loss questions to a head.

No Vote

A U.N. Charter provision Article 19 - says that members whose arrears exceed two years' assessments shall have no vote in the Assembly. Listed delinquencies of a number of countries - among them, the Soviet Union and France - have passed this level because of these Members' refusal to help finance the U.N. policing operations to which they have legal and political objections.

On Monday morning, Ambassador Nikolai Pedenenko of the Soviet Union met the Secretary-General and announced afterwards his country's agreement to an African-Asian plan drawn up at the end of last year. He referred specifically to a provision for the return to normal Assembly procedure.

According to published accounts of the African-Asian project, the no-vote issue would be held in abeyance for the time being. Meanwhile, U.N. Members would make voluntary contributions to restore U.N. solvency, and a thorough study of how to pay for future U.N. peace-keeping operations would be undertaken.

The Soviet Union has said it would be one of the first to contribute voluntarily to the so-called rescue fund, provided the Assembly first resume normal voting without Article 19 being applied. The United States has repeatedly insisted that the no-vote issue in the case of two-year delinquents arises automatically when one vote is called for. It consequently rejects the provision in the African-Asian scheme that would provisionally set aside Article 19.

There is general agreement on setting up the rescue fund so that opponents of the U.N. peace-keeping operations in the Congo or the Middle East could make special contributions to the U.N. without prejudicing to their legal position.

In his statement to the Assembly on Monday afternoon, Thant said "unduly alarmist" prophecies were not warrant.

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Resign? 'No' says U Thant

At a press reception in New York last week, the United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, was asked if he would resign because of ill-health.

He replied: "I have regained my health and as I was elected by the entire membership of the United Nations and have been entrusted with this task, I have no intention of quitting before the end of my term in November 1966."
Hiwi police rotate this week after 9 months stay

THE longest serving unit at present with UNIFCYP, the New Zealand Civilian Police Contingent, rotates this week. Fourteen of the nineteen strong unit will be flying home on Thursday. The other five, after a tour of eight months here already have volunteered to stay on for another six months.

The unit, commanded by Chief Inspector George Wells, of Wellington, has carried out patrol, roadblock and investigation duties during their tour here. From their headquarters at the Curium Palace Hotel, Limassol, their Landrovers cover the whole of the Larnaca area. During their stay the Kiwis have covered more than 82,000 miles during patrols.

There are two Maoris on the contingent's strength, and it is only natural that with such fine rugby players, the unit should field its own team. The "Curium Kiwis" is comprised of New Zealanders, several Pitka soldiers from the nearby Cheshire Regiment and two local schoolteachers.

Top left: Chief Inspector George Wells, commander of the contingent.

Top right: The contingent outside their headquarters in Limassol.


Above right: Detective Brian Tumney, aged 27, of Wellington, North Island, on duty at a roadblock just outside Larnaca.

Left: Detective Tumney reporting back to headquarters.

Right: Sergeant R.M. Colbourne on duty in the radio room at Limassol.

The HQ UNIFCYP hockey team in action at RAF Nicosia. A defender intercepts a pass from Lt Bernard Hobden (in ground at right) before it reaches Captain Ian Whitby (left).

PHEWS

Top left: The three Maloney brothers, all serving with the Irish Contingent of UNIFCYP. Left to right: Sgt. Ned Maloney, Pte Bill Maloney and Pte Frank Maloney. Ned and Bill are serving with the 1st Inf. Bn and Frank is a member of 3 Inf. Group.

Above, top: The commander of the Irish Contingent, Colonel C. O'Doherty, greets an officer of 3 Inf. Group on arrival at Nicosia Airport on Thursday.

Above: Members of the advance party of 4 Inf. Group leaving the aircraft.

Officers redecorate Mess

RECENTLY the Officers Mess at HQ UNIFCYP has been almost completely redecorated. Under the supervision of Capt. Ken Motta, who spent some years as an interior decorator before joining the Army, the officers themselves set to work and as a result the mess now boasts a new bar, fireplace, false ceiling with recessed lighting and a contemporary decor.

Above: Cpl. Joe Cusick of Manchester helps hang the curtains.

Below: Captain Motta with a tye chief assistants, Capt. Alan Gillett and Lt. Jim Gilmore admiring the results of their hard work.
General Assembly...

ed, that the UN's financial position was precarious. The cash reserve was $14.5 million, less than what was needed to meet the day-to-day requirements throughout the year. Thant went on to say that expenditures were expected to exceed $30 million by the end of the year, with only $10 million in core funding. He also noted that the UN's budget of $30 million, to be funded by member states and contributions, and that it had raised a long-term indebtedness of over $100 million to holders of UN bonds.

The immediate problem, Thant said, was that the UN and its member states in a position to keep pace with developments in the world, a situation that should be avoided. Mr. Quinones-Balbchy said that his report, which detailed the operations of the Assembly, was intended to avoid a confrontation on the issue.

If he was right in this assumption, his report, he said, was intended to support the United Nations in its efforts to maintain peace in the world. Mr. Quinones-Balbchy declared, steps should be taken to ensure that the Assembly continued to work and contribute to the maintenance of peace.

The Assembly resumed its normal activities, he said, and he was pleased to note that when Great Britain was listed as a member of the United Nations that day, the Assembly's work continued. The Assembly's report, which was presented to the Secretary-General, contained a statement that the Assembly was unable to proceed to the election of a President of the Assembly, and that payments should be made to the representatives of the assembled nations.

PRESENTATION TO SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Force Commander, General K.S. Thimayya, presented the U.N. Cyprus medal to senior officials of UNFICYP. Pictured left to right: Lt Col E.M. Hills, Canada, U.C. M. Kontostavlos, Antiquity, Lieut J. A. Anderson, Denmark and Col C. O'Sullivan, Ireland.

The Managing Director commented on the clear and urgent challenge posed by the rapid increase in the number of volunteers. He added that in the absence of certain principles, he would proceed with the preparations for a 1964 programme on the assumption that the number of volunteers would increase in 1964. He added that it did last year. Mr. Holland, in a press conference that he called before the close of year, said that he was confident that before too long there would prove to be no such case in any country that the practice of paying volunteers, which had not been extended beyond a number of countries than that it had last year.

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More help urged for 'Disaster' Hit Countries

The U.N. Secretary-General has prepared a report suggesting ways in which the United Nations might help fill gaps in the aid available to countries stricken by natural disasters. The report was prepared for consideration of the General Assembly at the request of the Economic and Social Council.

Unable to meet needs
It notes that even with help from a variety of governmental sources, voluntary agencies and international organizations, some countries have been unable to meet particular needs, including some extremely urgent ones, and that their problems are especially serious immediately after disasters.

On such occasions, the report says, many countries are unable to find skilled personnel and technical equipment urgently needed. The report proposes the Assembly to consider giving the Secretary-General authority to draw up to $100,000 a year from the U.N. Working Capital Fund for emergency aid, with a normal ceiling of $20,000 per country for one disaster.

Stand-by arrangements
The Secretary-General also suggests that some form of stand-by arrangements might be worked out to ensure the availability of a limited number of experts in certain fields in the event of a disaster.

Rolz-Bennett appointed as new Under-Secretary

The Secretary-General, U Thant, has announced the designation of Jose Rolz-Bennett, Deputy Chef de Cabinet as Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs to succeed Dragoslav Protitch.

Mr. Protitch will remain Director of the Training Programme for Foreign Service Officers from newly independent countries, of which he has been in charge since 1962. In order to give further impetus to the activities of this essential programme, the Secretary-General has found it necessary to release Mr. Protitch from his other duties so that he can devote his full time to the training activities of the programme.

The Secretary-General also intends to take advantage of the availability of Mr. Protitch for special assignments.

Mr. Rolz-Bennett has been Deputy Chef de Cabinet since 1 March 1962. Previously he had been Acting Director of the Division of Trusteeship in the United Nations Department of Trusteeship and former United Nations Secretary for Non-Self-Governing Territories. He was chief United Nations Representative in Elisabethville, Republic of the Congo, in the first half of 1962 and later 1962, Representative of the Secretary-General and temporary administrator of West Iran.

Before joining the United Nations Secretariat, he was a member of Guatemala’s delegation to the General Assembly’s regular sessions in 1955, 1955 and 1957 and to its first, second and third emergency special sessions. In 1958, Mr. Rolz-Bennett was Guatemala’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador.

Lecture series to begin International Co-Operation Year

Seven prominent personalities have accepted an invitation from the U.N. Secretary-General, U Thant, to inaugurate International Cooperation Year with a series of lectures at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The lectures will be given during the first two weeks of May 1965, beginning on Monday, January 25th. The series — on the broad theme of international cooperation — will include the suggested list of speakers who was originally prepared by the committee appointed by the General Assembly in 1963.

Personal capacity

The seven speakers, who come from various regions of the world, have been chosen solely on the basis of intellectual promise and have been asked to speak not as national or regional representatives but in personal capacities. Their audiences from the main parts of the world is intended to symbolize the international character of the International Cooperation Year.

At the same time it is hoped that the speakers will bring a fresh and many-sided approach to the problems which the world faces. It is also hoped that the lectures which will be printed — will help to promote public interest in, and support for the United Nations — one of the main purposes of the International Cooperation Year.

The lecture series will be inaugurated on January 25th by Alberto Lieras Camargo, who has twice beenPresident of Colombia, and as Foreign Minister of the country signed the U.N. Charter at the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

He will be followed by Gabrielle Marie d’Arbousier, Member of the National Assembly of Senegal who has been ambassador to France 1962 and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization since 1963.

Other speakers

Also taking part in the lecture series will be Allah Bukhah Karim Brohi, Pakistan’s lawyer and diplomat; Einar Bodansky, former Prime Minister of France, lawyer and author; Mohamed Kamel Hussein, educationist; F. Arup, economist; Walter Lippmann, U.S. political commentator and author; and Mikhail Dhirovič, Milhemelli, Soviet physicist and Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Science.