

Reorganisation of Secretariat 1960-1961: Reorganisation of Secretariat 1960...

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Reorganization of Secretariat

1-2 March 61

2 interoffice memoranda from L. Malania
to O.H.

1 March 1961

TO: The Secretary-General

FROM: Mr. L. Malania *LM*

The following facts are part of the background to Mr. George-Picot's letter regarding geographical distribution:

1. The Committee never discussed the Report of the ^{three} ~~other~~ past Presidents. All they heard about it was some adverse comments by the Soviet expert on the support contained therein for the Secretary-General's reasoning in establishing the figure of 11 as the size of the group of Under-Secretaries at Headquarters to which geographical distribution should apply as to a single group.
2. The Secretary of the Committee drew the Committee's attention to the 1957 Report of the Secretary-General on this matter, so that the experts could know the Secretary-General's own views and not come to a conclusion only on the basis of the reflection of these views in the Report of the Past Presidents. The Secretariat also circulated, at Roshchin's request, the Advisory Committee's and the Fifth Committee's reports on this question. A brief and inconclusive discussion on these reports took place.
3. The Committee agreed to consider geographical distribution in terms of two groups of staff -- the G-5 to D-1 group, and the D II and Under-Secretary group. It did discuss the first group and even agreed in a preliminary way on a new formula. It specifically decided to discuss the second group separately. However, this discussion never took place.
4. On 28 February, the work of this Committee was interrupted by a strong statement by Mr. Roshchin reported separately in the minutes of that meeting. Mr. Hamilton made a clear statement regarding the efforts of the Secretariat to meet the Soviet demands. Mr. Hamilton was asked to make a more detailed statement at the Committee's meeting on 1 March.

5. On 1 March, before hearing Mr. Hamilton's statement, the five members of the Committee met privately with Mr. Georges-Picot in his office, and in the absence of the Secretariat, agreed on a text to be sent to the Secretary-General.
6. When the implications of that text were drawn to Mr. Georges-Picot's attention by the Secretariat, and after the Committee had heard a full statement by Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Georges-Picot called another private meeting of the experts to try to rectify the original statement. The final text is the result of that effort. Its total result was to add one sentence to the original statement.

2 March 1961

To: The Secretary-General

From: L. Malania

Ambassador Urrutia called this afternoon to say goodbye as he is leaving tomorrow. As a result of this visit perhaps a few more facts might be added regarding the private meetings of the Committee of Experts:

1. The first private meeting was held on the initiative of Mr. Roshchin who had indicated he wanted to discuss the future of the Committee's work. Mr. Urrutia was late to the meeting, and when he arrived he found that his four colleagues had already agreed that "something should be done", and Sir Harold Parker was in the process of producing a draft. Urrutia says he assumed that there had been an agreement on a draft and he did not, therefore, wish to appear to be opposing an understanding among his colleagues. So he said nothing.
2. He was rather confused as to who had said what at that meeting, except that he recalled Roshchin saying something to the effect that a statement along the lines agreed by the Experts would be an indication of goodwill, and would enable him to bring influence on his Government not to raise the issue of Under-Secretaries. Urrutia appears to have got the impression that the USSR intended to concentrate entirely on the Office of the Secretary-General.
3. Urrutia said that he made no comment after Hamilton's very full statement at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Committee, because he considered that this statement quite adequately disposed of Roshchin's concern that nothing was being done. His impression was strengthened by Mr. Georges-Picot's statement, after Hamilton's presentation, describing it as an encouraging picture. When Georges-Picot asked the Experts to remain for a second private meeting at the end of

the afternoon's meeting, Urrutia's impression was that Georges-Picot would say that in view of Hamilton's satisfactory answer, it was no longer necessary to convey to the Secretary-General the concern of the experts.

4. He was surprised, therefore, when Georges-Picot merely asked the experts to reconsider the text they had already agreed. Urrutia said that he suggested some amendments, but he admitted he needed more time to think about the text. The whole thing was done too quickly and he was confused as to the possible implications of the experts' statement.

5. It was his impression that the experts' decision was to request the Secretary-General to do everything he could within the existing rules and regulations to correct the imbalance at the D-2 and Under-Secretary levels. It seems, however, that Mr. Roshchin has a copy of the text agreed by the experts in their private meeting in Georges-Picot's office and amended in the private meeting of the late afternoon.

6. Georges-Picot called Urrutia this morning from the airport and read to him the letter which he was sending to his colleagues. Then Georges-Picot asked Urrutia when he was planning to leave New York. On hearing that Urrutia planned to leave next Monday, Georges-Picot told him not to wait so long, but to leave sooner so as not to be around when Georges-Picot's letter was received. Accordingly Urrutia is leaving tomorrow. Georges-Picot also asked Urrutia to convey to Sir Harold Parker Georges-Picot's advice to leave as soon as possible. (Apparently neither Georges-Picot nor Urrutia knew that Sir Harold Parker is leaving tonight). The reason for this advice is to avoid the possibility of Roshchin demanding another private meeting on Georges-Picot's letter.

7. Mr. Georges-Picot also told Urrutia to advise Professor Goodrich to be very careful about having any private meetings with Mr. Roshchin.

8. Mr. Urrutia had lunch with Mr. Roshchin today, tête-à-tête, and warned him not to make use in the Assembly of any of the documents or studies which the experts were making (at this point the exact words are most elusive). Mr. Roshchin assured him that he would not use "the work" of the Experts in the Fifth Committee at the resumed session. However, Mr. Roshchin apparently told him that the extent to which the Soviet Government would press for the reorganization of the Secretariat was outside Mr. Roshchin's control. Mr. Urrutia got the impression that the Soviet Delegation would go "all out" against the Office of the Secretary-General, seeking to replace it by a committee of three. They would of course refer to the existing imbalance in the Under-Secretary and D-2 levels ^{within the} ~~without~~ context, but would not demand any drastic action with regard to these posts.

9. From other sources I learn that Mr. Roshchin is seeing Foreign Minister Gromyko tomorrow night to report to him on the work of the Committee of Experts.