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Trip to South America 1959

Press Releases

6 Aug - 3 Sept.

UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release SG/2096
6 August 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT FOUR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

On the invitation of the governments concerned, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold will visit Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay between 24 August and 4 September. According to a tentative timetable, he will leave New York 23 August and stay in Argentina 24-27 August, in Paraguay 28-29 August, in Uruguay 30-31 August and in Brazil 1-4 September. The Secretary-General's return to New York is tentatively scheduled for 5 September.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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Press Release SG/844
23 August 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL LEAVES NEW YORK FOR TWO-WEEK LATIN AMERICAN TRIP

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld took off from New York International Airport today at 6:40 p.m., via Argentine Airlines flight 311, for Buenos Aires on the first leg of a two-week trip that will take him to four Latin American countries -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

He is scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires tomorrow, Monday, at 9:30 a.m. local time.

Present at the airport today were:

Ambassador Mario Amadeo,
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations;

Ambassador Cyro de Freitas-Valle,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations;

Ambassador Jose A. Correa,
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and chairman
of the Latin American group of nations;

Ambassador Pacifico Montero de Vargas,
Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations;

Cesar Montero-Bustamente of Uruguay,
deputizing for Professor Enrique Rodriguez Fabregat,
Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations.

Also present were other members of delegations and United Nations officials.

Ambassador Mario Amadeo is traveling to Buenos Aires on the same plane as the Secretary-General.

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Press Services
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Press Release SG/845
24 August 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN BUENOS AIRES

(The following was received from the Secretary-General's party, Buenos Aires.)

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold arrived this morning in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was met at the airport by Ambassador Adolfo Scilingo, representing the Argentine President Arturo Frondizi; Foreign Minister Diogenes Taboada; Under-Secretary for Foreign Relations, Francisco Dhers; and other government officials and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Mr. Hammarskjold is scheduled to remain in Buenos Aires until Thursday, 27 August, when he will proceed to Asuncion, Paraguay.

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Press Services
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(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/846
25 August 1959

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL MEETS ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT
Receives Honorary Degrees at University of Buenos Aires

(The following was received from the Secretary-General's party, Buenos Aires.)

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, at present in Buenos Aires on the first stop of a two-week tour of four Latin American countries, yesterday afternoon talked for one hour with Argentine Foreign Minister Diogenes Taboada and later called on President Arturo Frondizi.

In the evening he received an honorary degree at the University of Buenos Aires and later dined with the Swedish Minister in Buenos Aires. Mr. Hammarskjold will remain in Argentina until Thursday, 27 August, when he will proceed to Asuncion, Paraguay.

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Press Services
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Press Release SG/848
26 August 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES VISIT IN BUENOS AIRES

(The following was received from the Secretary-General's party, Buenos Aires.)

UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold continuing his visit in Buenos Aires, yesterday, 25 August, met with Economic Minister Alvaro Alsogaray and his advisors and had a private lunch with President Arturo Frondizi. In the afternoon, Mr. Hammarskjold visited the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the UN information center. After holding a press conference, he attended a large diplomatic reception given by Foreign Minister Diogenes Taboada.

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Press Release SG/850
28 August 1959

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL LEAVES BUENOS AIRES FOR ASUNCION

(The following was received from the Secretary-General's party, Buenos Aires.)

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold left Buenos Aires by air Thursday morning (27 August) for Asuncion, Paraguay, where he is scheduled to remain until Saturday (29 August).

At the airport the Secretary-General received military honors, as he did when he arrived in Buenos Aires. Present were Foreign Minister Diogenes Teboada, a representative of Argentine President Arturo Frondizi and various heads of diplomatic missions.

On Wednesday, Mr. Hammarskjold spent the day at a country estate outside Buenos Aires. In the evening he attended a dinner given by the Foreign Minister.

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

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Press Release SG/857
31 August 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS MONTEVIDEO

(The following has been received from the Secretary-General's party, Montevideo.)

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, at present in Montevideo, Uruguay, met this morning with Homero Martinez Montero, Uruguayan Minister of External Relations. Following a luncheon with Mr. Martinez Montero and other government officials, Mr. Hammarskjold held a meeting with United Nations personnel stationed in Montevideo. He also called on the Presidents of the National Council, the Assembly and the Supreme Court. Later, he was scheduled to hold a press conference and to attend an official dinner.

Mr. Hammarskjold, who previously visited Argentina and Paraguay, is scheduled to arrive in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon for a four-day visit in Brazil.

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Note No. 2026
3 September 1959

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The following are excerpts from a press conference held yesterday (2 September) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld:

QUESTION: What are the measures the United Nations can take to obtain free transit through the Suez Canal?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: Again I would have to revert to what I have said before. There are no new means that can be brought into action. The matter has been treated, and treated with great intensity, by those diplomatic means of which we dispose. In the latest phase of the Suez problem, which dates from some time last spring, there has not been a week and not a day during which I have not engaged in some kind of negotiation related to this problem. However, the question is closely related to other aspects of the Palestine problem. For that reason, it is not the single issue of the ship that is held at Port Said, but its legal and political setting which all the time is under consideration. We have not reached any solution so far but I think we have managed to get to greater clarity on the problem and I believe that in the forthcoming General Assembly that process of clarification will be continued, certainly by diplomatic means and perhaps publicly. For the moment this is all I can say about that issue. I wish only to repeat that we in the United Nations as a matter of course always maintain the line which has been laid down in the various decisions. We maintain it with more or less success, but we have always succeeded in maintaining it.

QUESTION: Mrs. Golda Meir, speaking in this room, accused the United Nations for not having taken any attitude in order to prevent the conflicts that exist between Israel and Egypt. Is there any reason for that accusation?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I would not believe that you interpreted Mrs. Meir correctly because I don't think that that is her opinion. Mrs. Meir knows as well as the world knows, and I think that Mrs. Meir also fully recognizes, the very great contribution of the United Nations to the maintenance of peaceful conditions in the area. The sad thing is that the total situation of the area is such that our best efforts often are frustrated by action undertaken from one side or the other.

QUESTION: Has the United Nations authority to impose the passage of ships through the Suez Canal, ships under any flag?

(more)

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think that it is well known that the means of enforcement of the United Nations are strictly limited. To my knowledge no government has suggested so far that these means of enforcement should be applied in this case. I wish to draw to your attention that, under the Constantinople Convention, it is not the United Nations which is the authorized interpreter of the legal situation.

QUESTION: Egypt is in conflict not only with Israel but with the United Nations too, inasmuch as in 1951 free transit through the Suez Canal by resolution of the Security Council was granted to all ships. What are your views?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I consider a member state to be in conflict with the United Nations only if it stands condemned for a violation of a basic rule of the Charter. For that reason I would not have applied the word "conflict" to, let us say, the relations between the United Nations and those countries which were at the time of Suez on the other side of the line. A conflict is for me a situation in which one does not cooperate or negotiate. And, as you know, even in the hottest days of the Suez conflict we were in constant negotiation with both sides. You must remember that this organization is not a body which works independently of the members which compose it, and for that reason I do not like to talk of a conflict with the organization, unless a member nation has either broken out of the community or is pushed out of the community through a condemnation. On the other hand, if you mean to say that there is a conflict between the United Nations and the United Arab Republic because they represent different stands, in that case I agree with you that that is happening.

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UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release SG/852
2 September 1959

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ARRIVES IN BRAZIL

(The following was received from the Secretary-General's party, Rio de Janeiro.)

UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold arrived at Rio de Janeiro airport at 3 p.m. Tuesday, 1 September, where he was received with military honors by a representative of the President of the Republic. Also present at the airport were Horacio Lafer, Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs; Cyro de Freitas-Valle, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations; the Colombian and Swedish ambassadors stationed in Rio de Janeiro; other government officials and representatives of UN missions in Brazil.

Later, the Secretary-General called on Foreign Minister Lafer and was entertained at a state dinner at the Foreign Office.

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Press Release SG/853
3 September 1959

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CONTINUES VISIT IN BRAZIL

(The following was received here from the Secretary-General's party, Rio de Janeiro.)

United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was received by the President of Brazil, Juscelino Kubitschek, Wednesday (2 September), as he continued a series of activities in Rio de Janeiro.

In the afternoon he also called on the Presidents of both houses of Parliament and the President of the Supreme Court and visited the Museum of Modern Art. Earlier, a luncheon was given by Cyro de Freitas-Valle, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations.

In the evening Mr. Hammarskjold attended a reception given by Oswaldo Aranha, a former President of the United Nations General Assembly, and had dinner at the home of an art collector, Raymundo de Castro Maia.

Today (Thursday, 3 September) the Secretary-General was scheduled to leave for Sao Paulo for a visit of a day and a half.

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