

# Trips: Trips - 6

*HS L 179:76a*



Dag Hammarskjöld's samtl.

Sec. Gen.'s trip to Copenhagen - Stelun - Geneva -

- Panama 1959

March 25

E.T. Benson (Dept. of Agriculture, USA)

to B.R. Sen (FAO, Italy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 25, 1959.

Hon. B. R. Sen, Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization of  
the United Nations  
Viale Delle Terme di Caracalla  
c/o American Embassy  
Rome, Italy

Dear Mr. Sen:

You probably have received by now, through our Embassy, my invitation to join us in a meeting of Cabinet rank in Washington to consider the President's Food for Peace proposal, and request that you send a representative to participate in a preliminary consideration at the official level. The meeting at Cabinet level, as mentioned in my telegram, will begin with a dinner on Monday, May 4, and continue through Tuesday and into Wednesday, May 5 and 6. The meeting of officials will begin Monday, April 27.

In asking me to take the lead in this matter within our own government, the President said:

I am aware that the search for effective programs to help countries banish hunger has long been an important concern of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization whose Director General only a short time ago proposed another substantial attack upon this problem through an international food campaign.

This reference by the President to present and proposed work of FAO reflects the fact that the Food for Peace proposal is intended to be in line with that work in the past and with particular aspects of the broad program envisaged by your proposal to which the above quotation refers.

Without attempting now to elaborate on the bearing of the Food for Peace proposal on our common problem of finding more effective ways of using agricultural abundance for the benefit of underdeveloped countries and underfed peoples, I enclose for convenient reference, in excerpt, the pertinent passage of the President's agricultural message to Congress on January 29 and copy of his letter to me of February 9, 1959.

2-Hon. B. R. Sen

If you find it possible to be with us, I should appreciate it if you would allow me to call on you for such comments as you may care to make on the matter before the meeting and related work of FAO.

In expressing my own hopes that you will be able to attend, I am sure I reflect the sentiment of all participants.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. Benson

Enclosures