

# Speeches, statements and press conference by Dag Hammarskjöld concerning Mi...

*HS L 179:128*



National Library  
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's samd.

Middle East

---

16 Dec. 57

Press conference by D.H. at U.N. HQ

Note No. 1701  
16 December 1957

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HELD AT UNITED NATIONS  
HEADQUARTERS ON MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 1957

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I wished to see you today because the General Assembly is now behind us and I for one regret that, what for other reasons is a sound practice, during the time of the General Assembly I really had no chance to meet with you. I felt that I should take this first opportunity. I felt that I should take it also because I shall shortly be leaving Headquarters. In these circumstances, I felt that, at all events, we should meet as soon as possible.

I have no initial statement to make. I may perhaps say a few words concerning the General Assembly. Whatever the results, it has been a hard-working, solid Assembly, in which I think the mapping of the ground was more important than the march across it.

I should just like to say a brief word about my travel plans, which you already have in the communiqué from DPI. There is nothing much to add. The key to the whole problem, quite apart from the personal engagement in Sweden, is that I felt that as this is the first Christmas during which we have this multi-national little military force out in Gaza and as I will be in Europe, it would be a very good idea to show the natural solidarity with the troops and with the men in the field. For me personally, I know that it will be a pleasure, although it is rather an unusual kind of Christmas for a Scandinavian.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is all I feel I need to say by way of introduction, and now the floor is yours.

Mr. Jovan SCEKIC (Radio Belgrade): Bearing in mind the result of the disarmament discussion in the General Assembly -- I did not use the word "failure" -- do you think it will be possible to continue those talks in the near future? In which way and when?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: In which way and when are questions which really go beyond what I could speak about with any assurance. The first part of your question, on the other hand, is another matter. I think that following the discussions in the Assembly what is needed is a somewhat different kind of diplomacy. After all, there are very many contacts maintained between all the parties in this discussion, and those contacts can be pursued with the background

(more)

of the very keen international public interest, which also received such clear expression in the interventions in this very room, whatever differences there might have been concerning the method of approach. My reply to your question is that we may have entered a stage of normal diplomacy in preparation for whatever might follow in the United Nations.

Mr. David HOROWITZ (World Union Press): Considering the plus and minus aspects of the twelfth session of the General Assembly, I wonder whether you would care to summarize, more or less in brief, your own outlook on the outcome?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It would be somewhat preposterous for me to try to evaluate the results. I characterized the Assembly, as you remember, in general terms. Repeating what I said, I think that the mapping of the ground has, in a certain sense, been the most characteristic element and the most important element. All the same, however, I would say this much: the Assembly has registered some very important results which have not been publicized much but which will certainly continue to figure in the policy-making of Governments and which I for one welcome very warmly. I would highlight, **first of all**, the special projects fund decision, which opens new possibilities for the development of economic assistance in forms which are not open to all those various political objections which we know only too well. It may have opened the door to a much more active contribution both of the United Nations itself and of Member Governments. With the very keen sense of the importance of this problem which you know I have, I of course regard this as a major achievement. I may remind you of the fact that the United States representative, in commenting upon it, used the word "milestone", which is a very strong word, and I for one would agree with him.

Other decisions which I think are of considerable significance, for example, are those on the financing of UNEF. It is not that I for a moment doubted that we would get UNEF on a solid financial basis, after the improvisation, unavoidable as it was, but the significance which I attach to it is the recognition of solidarity which the vote indicates -- the recognition of solidarity which finds its substantive expression in the fact that this in principle has to be financed on the basis of the normal scale of assessments. I do not now have in mind solidarity with UNEF but solidarity with United Nations decisions in emergency situations.

(more)

Mr. CARSON (Jewish Telegraphic Agency): Would you mind telling us whether, during your visit to Cairo, you intend to discuss the Suez Canal situation in general -- and, specifically, the six-point programme adopted by the Security Council in 1956?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The visit in the first instance, as I think appears from the release, is a courtesy call which is natural when I pass Cairo after having gone to Gaza. On the other hand, it is quite obvious that I will use the occasion to cover the ground on all the questions which may be considered as outstanding between the Government of Egypt and the United Nations. However, there is no agenda and there will be no agenda.

You asked a very specific question. In those specific terms, I would hesitate very much to say "Yes", but, if one looks at the problem you raised as part of a very general picture, my reply is that the general picture certainly will be covered to whatever extent time permits, and aspects of the problem you mention may, of course, for that reason, come under discussion. However, there is no agenda, and to be precise on such a point as this would, for that reason, be quite premature.

Miss HARVEY (Quincy Patriot Ledger): In his closing remarks to the Assembly, President Munro spoke of grim forebodings in reference to the financial difficulties of UNRWA with the Palestine refugees. I wonder whether you can foresee any alleviation of the financial problem and of the general refugee situation, perhaps in connexion with a special fund.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Of course, as to what the President said, I think he is perfectly right in sounding a strong note of warning. We are living on the basis of voluntary contributions. That is all right if all Governments are fully aware of the size and importance of the problem. We simply have the responsibility -- both the President in his capacity, and I in mine -- to bring home the whole significance of this special UNRWA operation. On the other hand, I would say that, in view of the magnificent response we have had in so many United Nations operations,

(more)

(The Secretary-General)

I feel sure that, from the moment we manage to give our inside picture fully to Governments in direct contacts, they will respond as they have responded so many times. For that reason, there is place for a warning, but there is no place for despair.

Coming to the other aspects, I would say this: I would not, for the moment, like to enter that field at all. I have nothing in mind, I have nothing in view, on that score. As a matter of course, if we get <sup>a</sup> sounder and stronger economic development, that will have favourable repercussions in many, many directions, one of them probably being this one.

Mr. YAFFEE (Al Hamishmar): Now that the Assembly is over and the speeches are all in and printed, do you still have the feeling that there is a real desire for peace, a willingness for peace, in the Middle East, as you told us several times when you returned?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Definitely. I have no hesitation about the reply. If anything, my impressions this time confirm my prior conclusions.

Mr. LEISTIKOW (Göteborgs Handels-och Sjöfaststidning): I wonder whether, without going into a case under investigation, I might ask you a few questions concerning the work of Mr. Bang-Jensen:

First, is it correct that Mr. Bang-Jensen approached you in August about some evidence he wanted to show you from his committee work but that he did not get an opportunity to do so?

Secondly, is it correct that Mr. Bang-Jensen was not asked to hand over the material from the committee work for safekeeping under seal until October?

Thirdly, is it correct that Mr. Bang-Jensen asked you in a memo how he could comply with the request in view of the fact that he had obtained certain evidence on condition that the name of the witness not be given to any other person whatsoever?

Finally, is it correct that he did not receive any answer to this memorandum?

(more)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It is somewhat unusual to hear a member of the staff speaking with the voice of a correspondent in a press conference, but ...

Mr. LEISTIKOW: Well, I must protest...

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I do not criticize you in any way...

Mr. LEISTIKOW: I must protest against that. I did not get these questions from Mr. Bang-Jensen.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: But you could not have put those questions without having direct information from Mr. Bang-Jensen.

Mr. LEISTIKOW: Not direct, sir.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: He is a free man, and I do not criticize in that respect. But it is quite obvious that the questions do belong to the investigation committee and not to a press conference. However, I will say a few words about these various questions.

As to the first one, the question of evidence, will you please repeat your words?

Mr. LEISTIKOW: Is it correct that Mr. Bang-Jensen approached you in August about some evidence he wanted to show you from his committee work but that he did not get an opportunity to do so?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. Bang-Jensen, at a much earlier stage, presented certain allegations. I assigned Dr. Ralph Bunche to hear what he had to say and to look at whatever evidence he might have. He did not produce any evidence, to my knowledge. So how could I go any further? I do not know that there is any obligation on the part of the Secretary-General to go into such matters personally. It is perfectly correct for him to assign a senior and most responsible official to hear the case on his behalf.

(more)

(The Secretary-General)

On the second point, as to safekeeping under seal, I think that Mr. Bang-Jensen must be fully aware of the fact that secret documents of this type are, according to our procedures, kept in a form which is perfectly safe. We have twelve years of records without any misfortunes having happened to such documents. As to the detailed procedures to be applied in this case, they follow normal lines and they are less important than the fact that United Nations safekeeping is United Nations safekeeping, with perfect safety for the secret.

Questions 3 and 4, I think, are in a certain sense answered by the very fact that I assigned Dr. Ralph Bunche to go into the matter with Mr. Bang-Jensen. I can only repeat that, from my point of view, that is a full reply to his request.\*/

Mr. LEISTIKOW: Thank you very much.

Mr. BEER (Neue Zuercher Zeitung): There are rumors about a special session of the Assembly on disarmament. Furthermore, Mr. Lodge spoke Saturday night about the possibility of an Assembly session on Hungary. Are all these simply good intentions -- or perhaps bad intentions -- or is something concrete going on in this direction?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I do not know about anything concrete. But, mind you, I simply say that I do not know; I speak only for myself.

Mr. BEER: My second question has to do with the subject of human rights. You announced the other day the appointment of a new Under-Secretary, and I remember that, when you dealt in your report with the matter of a reorganization in the higher levels of the Secretariat, you spoke about taking away from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs certain matters which are not strictly of a social and economic nature. Am I right in thinking that the question of human rights will be one of these problems and that under the new Under-Secretary there may be a new development, a new departure, in dealing with this question, in which, as you know, I am particularly interested?

(more)

---

\*/ The Secretary-General wishes to add the following: With respect to the second question that it was not until October that it was brought to the Secretariat's notice that Mr. Bang-Jensen had not followed regular instructions but retained the records in question in his personal possession; with respect to the third question, that before his suspension, Mr. Bang-Jensen was repeatedly requested by his superior, Dr. Protitch, to return these official records to UN custody and in the course of these contacts had ample opportunities to clarify how he thought regular procedures could be applied in this case so as to satisfy the personal undertakings he considers himself to have made, on his own responsibility.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The new plan, as now approved by the General Assembly, provides for maximum flexibility. We can reassign jobs among the officials on the senior level so as to get the best fit, personality wise, and as to the combination of various questions.

I have discussed with Mr. de Seynes in quite some detail the possibility of alleviating the burden of his somewhat overgrown department, and you very rightly indicate that one of the things which have, so to speak, lives of their own, and which in a certain sense represent a sub-department, is the whole field of human rights. For that reason, it is quite likely that, in this reshuffling of tasks, the direct responsibility for that area may be assigned to one of those Under-Secretaries who will have special assignments. It is premature for me to say that it will necessarily be so, because the discussions have not come to an end. In any event, I would say that it does not in any sense mean a new departure. On the other hand, it will, of course, provide more of the time of a senior official for the work on that special subject.

(more)

Mr. ALEXANDRIDES (New York Atlantis): If I may pursue this human rights question. In your statement on Human Rights Day, you stated that the basis of world peace depends on our recognition of the rights of individuals and to the application of this principle in the relations of States. Two days later, on 13 December, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, a Committee adopted a resolution on the application of the right of self-determination on Cyprus. Would you consider this decision as a development of the United Nations in that direction?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Would you excuse me for not commenting on that decision.

Mr. LASH (New York Post): Sir, the "big wheels" of world communism met in Moscow. This week the "big wheels" of NATO are meeting in Paris. Do you think that the great Powers are making as much use of the United Nations as they should?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Well, one thing may be my private view -- I leave that out. I think we are on the whole on the right road. It is quite natural to have a mixture of United Nations operations, meetings of this type and diplomacy of the more classical type, man to man, bilaterally and multilaterally. For that reason I do not see any contradiction between these various meetings and operations of the United Nations. When I say that I feel that we are on the right road, it is because I do feel that to an increasing extent we see two phenomena: a wish to take the issue to the United Nations, and a wish somehow to tie the United Nations in with these other operations. I do not see any threat to any United Nations operation in these various meetings. I hope that to the extent that the United Nations proves capable -- and the United Nations means also the Secretariat -- to cope with an increasing number of more difficult problems, the natural gravitation will lead Governments to use the United Nations to the full extent of its capacity and ability.

(more)

Mr. Louis FOY (FrancePresse): Following Mr. Beer's question, do you plan any more changes in your immediate entourage?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have been running over, so to say, only part of the ground pending the decision of the General Assembly on the senior level organization. Two changes, as you know, have come about: Mr. Spinelli comes to the European Office after Mr. Pelt. And here at Headquarters, as you have seen, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan will join the senior level. Because the time of his contract comes to an end, as agreed from the very beginning, Mr. Robertson, to my very great regret, has to return to the Treasury in London. I guess that, as a matter of course, when the new organization is implemented there will be further changes, but this is not the time for me to talk about it.

Mr. Otto LEICHTER (Austria Presse Argentur): If I understood you correctly, you said disarmament has entered the stage of diplomacy. Do you consider this progress or a setback?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: You know my whole philosophy. I consider it perfectly natural that such periods are, so to say, interludes in the operations of the United Nations. I do not evaluate them in any special direction. It is perfectly natural in the long trend of development in these extremely thorny questions.

Miss Kay Rainey GRAY (Greenwich Time): Last fall in your introduction to the report on the work of the United Nations you pointed out the value of the United Nations as an instrument for negotiation, and also the practical opportunities here for multilateral diplomacy. Now, there seems to be a flowering of multilateral diplomacy during this twelfth session. I wonder if you agree that there was such a trend, and if so, do you think it would be fair to tag this Assembly "the Corridor Assembly"?

(more)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Oh no, in no way. I think that the role of backstage preparation for debates has been normal; in some cases decisive, in some cases less fruitful than prior years. But to make a clear-cut distinction between this and prior Assemblies, in that respect, I would not do that.

Mr. Morris RIVLIN (Jewish Day Journal): There has been a report about a move or a plan that the NATO Conference try to settle the Israeli-Arab problem on the basis of the 1947 United Nations resolution. Since this is a matter that concerns an act of the United Nations, would you care to comment on this report or plan?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I, myself, have not heard anything to that effect. That is all I can say about it. You know the situation here at the United Nations with the views firmly expressed from the main parties to the conflict on that very issue. I have nothing to add to what you know already from those statements.

Mr. Levon KESHISHIAN (Al Ahram ): Can you tell us something about the progress of the talks that Mr. Black, you and Mr. Fawzi are having concerning the compensation to Suez shareholders?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I think that Mr. Black should reply for himself. I have nothing to add on my side. I am fully informed by Mr. Black, but I do not want to speak on his behalf.

Mrs. Anne Weill TUCKERMAN (Agence France-Presse.): I believe one of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly unanimously on the radiation question asked you to undertake some sort of a new study in order to see whether the Committee on Radiation can be strengthened or speeded up, or something to that effect. Have you taken any disposition to that effect? What, may I ask you, are your plans in this connexion?

(more)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: We are in touch with the Committee, as a matter of course. But so far I have not taken any specific steps because of the debates and the standpoint taken here in the General Assembly.

Mr. David HOROWITZ (New York World Union Press): May I ask whether the duties of Ambassador Urrutia of Colombia might be broadened, aside from the issue of the Mount Scopus problem, and that his duties may carry him to other areas in line with the Armistice Agreement.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I would warn against any speculation in that direction. He has a clear-cut mandate to follow up negotiations of the Mount Scopus implementation agreement, where we have the agreement in principle, but where, after all, certain practical steps are necessary to thrash out before it is fully implemented. My agreement with him does not go beyond that point. My agreement with the Governments do not go beyond that point. His terms of reference do not open the door to any other negotiations.

(more)

Mr. TRAN VAN KY (Saigon Moi): Mr. Secretary-General, as you have seen, I have been rather quiet during the last few months. Since I noted you looked unhappy about my question I promise you that I will never ask you again about your marriage.

My question this time will be a serious one. Thanks to the DPI, and I would like to say that you have a wonderful DPI team here, we have a release concerning the Asian women leaders discussing marriage laws and customs. My question will be in connexion with Human Rights Day. It is stated in the release:

"Mrs. Chin Nyeen of Malaya said that her country is still a long way from having only monogamous marriages. In many cases the wife helped to pick the second wife for her husband to avoid being divorced herself.

"Mrs. Ambhorn Meessok of Thailand said that inequalities would soon be corrected in Thailand where both men and women are good Buddhists. Men would come to realize that polygamy is not really necessary, she said."

I know that every time we talk about polygamy here, you just laugh. You do not have that problem here. But it is a very disgraceful and immoral problem in the Far East. Every day, I receive heaps and heaps of letters from women over there asking me if the United Nations can do anything for them. We have just had Human Rights Day a few days ago, and I would like to ask you if you think you can do anything for them? I want to thank you for any reply you can give that I can send to them.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: These countries are honoured and trusted Members of this Organization. They have recently emerged from social systems characterized by old traditions of a type different from the one you approve of and from the one which is in line with the basic ideals set out by the United Nations in the human rights field. I have no doubt that with the wisdom of the leaders of those countries, they will see to it, to the extent that the inherited social situation permits, that they will approximate the standards. It is a question of evolution, not revolution. And trusting, as I say I do, the will of these statesmen to adjust the system as much as possible to the generally recognized ideals, I have no reason to take any steps myself.

(more)

Dr. Max BEER (Neue-Zuercher Zeitung): Mr. Hammarskjold, I recall that in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly with regard to Palestine refugees, besides other measures which were indicated, you were entrusted with a special study or a special undertaking for additional financing. Some members of the Committee had expressed doubts; they did not understand exactly what this mission meant. I confess that I, too, do not know exactly what the resolution means with respect to your special mission. Would you be kind enough to tell me how you interpret it?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: They left it to the Secretary-General to find out what made sense in the direction they indicated. I think the direction is quite clear from the text. What I am going to do is to take one trusted collaborator here in the Secretariat and give him the necessary powers to enter upon direct discussions with representatives of the various Governments, probably in their capitals, so as to be able to inform them fully with respect to what our situation, our problem, is and to discuss with them the possibility of further assistance. It is a very direct approach and, I think, a very promising approach.

Miss Mary F. HARVEY (Quincy Patriot Ledger): Can you conceive of doing something more on the refugee problem as such, outside of a political settlement in the area?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Just support UNRWA. See to it that UNRWA can pursue its efforts with all the vigour it has shown so far. I think that here I may indulge in something rather unusual -- a word of praise for the way in which it has been done.

Mr. Alexander GABRIEL (Trans-Radio News Agency): In your evaluation of the Assembly in reply to Mr. Horowitz, I noticed that you omitted the very much agonizingly-discussed last resolution on the principles of peace, which seemed to me a sort of last minute burst on the part of the Assembly to break its bonds and limitations in the present world crisis. I am sure that you did not do it out of skepticism or perhaps "quiet diplomacy," if I may make an unpardonable pun. I wonder if you would care to comment on what you think may be the importance of this last noble effort upon the very much disturbed situation of the world at this moment?

(more)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: It is impossible to say what may be the impact of a general declaration. I would rather like to look at it from the point of view of its symptomatic value. We tend to forget again and again that in this rather noisy world of ours, <sup>where</sup> conflicts receive very vocal expression, after all, there is at present nobody -- and I repeat it, it is my deep conviction -- nobody who does not want to have a world of peace. That came out in spite of debate in which some interventions seemed not to contradict that fact but to indicate that the underlying conflicts were not in any way reduced in intensity.

Mr. Saul CARSON (Jewish Telegraphic Agency): Mr. Secretary-General, do you expect to see Dr. Urrutia before he goes on his special assignment? If so, where please?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I saw him only yesterday. I certainly will see him several times before he leaves, not only to bring him up to date on my own discussions, which after all were in an introductory stage, but also to assist him in, so to say, analysing what is the problem and what might be a way of giving satisfaction to the two parties.

I would like to add one thing: I attach very great significance to this Urrutia mission. If, as I trust, it succeeds, it will serve everybody's interest by stabilizing a position which, if it were permitted to drift, might give us all a lot of trouble.

Mr. Pierre J. HUSS (International News Service): Can you enlighten us as to the objectives you had in mind in inviting Mr. Andersen of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: That was very clearly spelled out in the decision on the matter, the terms of reference, so to say, of the invitation. You remember that it was in the first instance to identify documents. Nobody has seen them. Nobody would see them on the Secretariat side. I would not see them.

(More)

In the second place, it was to discuss with him if any special extra safeguards should be added in his view to the normal procedure so as to give the doubtful the most complete assurance that there was no risk of leaks or abuses.

A third point was, of course, that if such a line were agreed upon, he would, as a kind of representative of the Committee and, I guess, also the public, be invited to assist in supervising the implementation.

You can see that the two last points -- which are unusual from a procedural point of view because mostly we do not invite any kind of outside witnesses in this way -- were inspired by the wish to convince everybody from the witnesses to the broad public which has taken an interest in this matter that this really was a solid and satisfactory arrangement. It seemed to me that the somewhat extraordinary situation which had developed because of fears and doubts required this extraordinary measure to, so to say, open the doors in this respect to the Secretariat and permit an outside observer to see what we are doing.

(more)

Mr. HAMILTON (New York Times): Where are those documents now?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I would like to know.

Mr. MUNN (United Press): Can you give us any information on the progress of the investigation of Mr. Samarasekera, the Ceylon man who was suspended?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: That suspension has now led to dismissal.

Mr. FOY (France Presse): Cardinal Spellman is going to spend Christmas with the UN troops in Korea. You will be with UNEF. What are your plans for Christmas Day?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I am very much in the hands of General Burns and his collaborators and assistants. It will be with the troops. I guess that there will be various types of celebrations as is the case in a multi-national / <sup>military unit.</sup> I will, however, also give some time to UNWRA. They have a considerable staff there and they have their own people, the refugees; and, not only as a gesture indicating interest, but as an expression of my own very real interest, I will, of course, use the opportunity in that respect and I hope time will prove sufficient.

Mr. HOROWITZ (World Union Press): There has been a marked improvement in the whole situation in the Middle East at the twelfth session. Would you say that the time may be now approaching to translate the Armistice Agreements into a permanent peace settlement?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I know one thing, and that is that patience is the first virtue in handling these matters. And the second thing is that the situation is in some respects more satisfactory than we have seen it for a while. That is good in itself; but let something grow, and let us agree not to push anything on anybody.

(more)

Mr. KESHISHIAN (Al Ahram, Cairo): Do you have assurances or indications from Spain and Portugal that they will submit information, under article 73 (e) on the territories which they hold?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I am not directly in touch with the question. Personally, I have no such indication, but it may be that the people in the Trusteeship Department have. Personally I have not, but that is not a complete reply.

Mr. KESHISHIAN (Al Ahram, Cairo): Certain governments have certain enclaves in territories of other countries, and the Charter does not say anything about this. What will happen to these? How will they be settled? For example, Morocco is asking the International Court of Justice to give an opinion on the different enclaves in Morocco. Have you given any thought to what the UN can do in this case?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: So far I have not.

Mr. LEICHTER (German Press Agency): Is the Secretariat making any preparations to deal with the question of UN "ether" or Etheruno, the question of the legal problems involved by the sputniks and other devices of tht sort? I understand that Sir Leslie Munro stressed the necessity of having the next session of the General Assembly deal with this matter.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: On the Secretariat level I can say that we have not officially gone into that matter at all. It may well be that the people in the Legal Department at least have started thinking about it. You will excuse me if I so far have not had, frankly, any minute to go into the question of the various follow-ups to statements in the General Assembly. It will be left for an intense working period in January.

Mr. MUNN (United Press): This seems to be a good point at which to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe return from your journey.

(more)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, and may I wish you a very good Christmas and a happy New Year, as I shall not see you before the New Year.

(The press conference ended at 12:45 p.m.)

\* \*\*\* \*