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Guinea - 1959 -

- Veronese, Vittorino (Dir. Gen., UNESCO)
 - 1 letter from D.H., 17.05.1961
- Adiseshiah, Malcolm S. (Acting Dir. Gen., UNESCO)
 - 1 letter to D.H., May 1961

Fontenoy, Paris-7°



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in your reply, please refer to :
en répondant, veuillez rappeler :

n° ODG/RIC/a-963

Walter Hill

*There must be a reply
to this most remarkable
letter. I understood that
Philippe intended to
visit the question in 1961.
8 May 1961
would like a word with
you on the matter. H.*

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld,

You will recall that the problems involved in the relationship between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations and Specialized Agencies were reviewed at the last meeting of the Technical Assistance Board.

During my recent visit to Conakry I raised this question with the President of the Republic and his Minister of Foreign Affairs who gave me a very firm and clear statement of the Government's position and requested me to transmit it to the other Agencies:

- 1) The relations between the United Nations and the Government of Guinea, which rest upon political issues and problems, are the subject of quite specific consultations and negotiations between the two and programme relations between them are related to this overall problem.
- 2) The Government welcomes and values highly its relationship with the Specialized Agencies. In fact, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated: "Alors que les Gouvernements changent, les Institutions spécialisées représentent l'élément essentiel de la continuité des Etats." In particular, both emphasized the very high and special importance attached by the Government and the people of Guinea to Unesco because of its educational mandate and cultural trusteeship both of which are crucial to the Africa of today. In concrete terms this is shown by the large aid requested in education and research from Unesco.
- 3) The Government also appreciates and welcomes the services of the experts from ICAO, WHO and FAO, some of whom have returned and resumed their work.

I am sure that you will be interested by this information which I am transmitting to the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency in relation to the position taken at the last meeting of the Technical Assistance Board concerning the possibility of the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency resuming their programmes in Guinea and maintaining direct relations with the Government.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm S. Adiseshiah
Malcolm S. Adiseshiah
Acting Director-General

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

17 May 1961

Dear Dr. Veronese,

A few days ago I received a communication signed by Mr. Adiseshiah, as Acting Director-General of UNESCO, informing me that during a recent visit to Conakry he had raised with the President of the Republic of Guinea and his Minister of Foreign Affairs the question of the relationship between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, and transmitting "a very firm and clear statement" on the subject which they had given him.

I shall not comment on this rather obscure statement or on Mr. Adiseshiah's communication itself. I do, however, want to say how glad I was to learn of the decision reached at the private meeting of ACC last week that no initiatives would be undertaken, or existing work developed, in Guinea by any member of the United Nations family pending further review of the situation at the July session of the Technical Assistance Board. It is obviously essential that we should all act in concert in a situation of this kind, where independent action - even if it may seem to be in the interests of some urgently needed economic or social programme - might have serious political consequences; and I warmly appreciate your support of this position in the ACC.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

Dr. Vittorino Veronese
Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
9 Place de Fontenoy
Paris VIIe, France