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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1959

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/871
15 November 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS MR. TUOMIOJA TO LAOS

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold who arrived in Laos 12 November has, after discussions with representatives of the Laos Government, in the light of previous studies of the problems Laos is facing, instructed Mr. Sakari Tuomioja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, to review the economic situation of Laos, in particular the role of economic and technical assistance rendered by the United Nations for the furtherance of economic growth and stability.

Mr. Tuomioja has been requested to come to Laos while the Secretary-General is still there so as to provide him with an opportunity to discuss the scope of the study to be undertaken. Mr. Tuomioja has been requested to report on his findings to the Secretary-General within four weeks. His report will be taken up for immediate study by the Secretariat in consultation with the Specialized Agencies.

In addition to the task just mentioned Mr. Tuomioja will, during his stay in Vientiane, follow up the discussions initiated by the Secretary-General and provide him with such further information as would be of importance for the judgment regarding the assistance he might most appropriately render under the Charter, taking into account also other international agreements which provide a framework for the development of Laos.

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Press Release BIO/49
15 November 1959

MR. SAKARI TUOMIOJA

Biographical Note

Sakari Tuomioja has served as Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe since 2 September 1957.

Mr. Tuomioja was born in 1911 at Tampere, Finland. He received a law degree in 1936 at Helsinki University. In 1938 he was named Secretary of the Finance Committee of the Finnish Parliament and became Secretary to the State Finance Auditors in 1939. From 1940 to 1944, he served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. He served as Minister of Finance in 1944-45, of Commerce in 1950, of Foreign Affairs in 1951-52, and as Prime Minister in 1953-54. He was also Governor of the Bank of Finland from 1945 to 1955 and later served as Finland's Ambassador to the United Kingdom. He was his country's representative to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund from 1948 to 1955.

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