

# UN-Secretariat matters A-S: UN-Secretariat matters A-S - 26

*HS L 179:92*



Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

U. N. / Secretariat matters 1953

Assistant Sec. Gen. — SECCO Affairs Dept.

- 1.) Status of USSR Nationals on the Secretariat  
(G. Palthey, Dir. of Personnel — to the Sec. Gen., 21 April 53)
- 2.) 2 letters from D.H. — to A.Y. Vyshinsky (1st Deputy  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, USSR), 27 April  
2 May, 1953

L 779:92

UNITED NATIONS • NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General, THRU: Mr. Byron Price, Assistant Secretary-General,  
Administrative and Financial Services *Price*

FROM: Georges Palthey, Director of Personnel *Palthey*

SUBJECT: Status of U.S.S.R. Nationals on the Secretariat *Palthey* Date 21 April 1953

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Enclosed is a list of U.S.S.R. nationals presently employed at United Nations Headquarters. 13 Soviet nationals occupy posts subject to geographical distribution. 16 are employed in the Languages Service Division as translators and editors and 3 are in the General Service category.

The recruitment of Soviet nationals has always been very difficult, largely because of the restriction on direct recruitment in the U.S.S.R., and we have had to depend upon the Soviet Government to nominate candidates with very limited possibility as to choice on the basis of qualifications and competence.

The situation has improved since 1 January 1953. During the first two months of the year we have recruited three professionals and eleven translators; the latter having passed the United Nations examination held in Moscow, and we are now in the process of recruiting two other Soviet citizens in the Professional category at grades P-2 and P-3.

Outside the general problem of recruitment from Soviet Russia we are faced with three principal questions which have been the subject of several discussions between the Soviet Delegation and the Bureau of Personnel:

- 1) The transfer of two or three Soviet staff members from their present assignments to other posts in the Substantive Departments. The Soviet Delegation complains that the work they are actually performing is not at the level of their competence, and also that they have no opportunity to improve their English.
- 2) We would like to recruit by competitive examination in Moscow six additional translators for assignment either in New York or in Geneva.
- 3) On several occasions the Soviet Delegation has advised me of its desire to have higher Soviet officials in the Secretariat. In January, I prepared a list of vacant posts at the P-4 and P-5 level. The representative of the Soviet Delegation told me that they were not interested in technical posts, but they were anxious for the Secretary-General to appoint to the staff of the United Nations at least one Director (D-2) in a substantive department. No answer has been given to this request.

	<u>CATEGORY AND LEVEL</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>E.O.D.</u>	<u>CONTRACT</u>
Technical Assistance Administration				
14. Lukianov, Mr. P.	P-2	Admin. Off.	23 Oct. 1950	Fixed Term to 23 Oct. '53
Conference and General Services				
15. Golitsin, Mr. V.	P-3	Translator	11 Feb. 1951	Fixed Term to 10 Feb. '54
16. Ivanova, Miss T.	P-3	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
17. Kosolapov, Mr. V.	P-3	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
18. Pavlichenko, Mr. V.	P-3	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
19. Sossinsky, Mr. S.	P-3	Verbatim Rep.	1 March 1947	Permanent
20. Andrejew, Mr. V.	P-2	Proof Reader	11 Feb. 1949	Permanent
21. Danilin, Mr. V.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
22. Gavrilin, Mr. M.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
23. Kireev, Mr. A.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
24. Krestiyarov, Mr. V.	P-2	Translator	20 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 19 Feb. '54
25. Kusnetsov, Mr. N.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
26. Petrov, Mr. V.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
27. Polonik, Mr. N.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
28. Yagodkin, Mr. G.	P-2	Translator	2 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
29. Galkin, Mr. A.	P-1	Editor	26 Oct. 1951	Fixed Term to 25 Oct. '53
30. Shumaev, Mr. M.	P-1	Editor Trainee	26 Oct. 1951	Fixed Term to 25 Oct. '53
31. Shachnazarova, Mrs. V.	G-4	Clerk	16 April 1951	Temporary Indefinite
32. Monk, Mrs. V.	G-3	Clerk-Typist	4 Sept. 1949	Temporary Indefinite

21 April 1953

U.S.S.R. NATIONALS  
AT NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

	<u>CATEGORY AND LEVEL</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>E.O.D.</u>	<u>CONTRACT</u>
Political and Security Council Affairs				
1. Zinchenko, Mr. K. E.	A.S.G.	A.S.G.	23 May 1949	Fixed Term to 1 Feb. '54
2. Shakhov, Mr. P.	D-1	Chief, Substantive Serv. of the Sec. Coun. Sect.	8 April 1947	Permanent
3. Burdyukov, Mr. L.	P-3	Pol. Aff. Off.	23 Sept. 1952	Fixed Term to 22 Sept. '53
Economic Affairs				
4. Grusha, Mr. V.	P-3	Econ. Aff. Off.	20 Feb. 1953	Fixed Term to 19 Feb. '54
5. Huberland, Mrs. S.	G-4	Prof. Ass't.	29 Sept. 1947	Permanent
6. Ivanov, Mr. V.	P-2	Econ. Aff. Off.	23 Oct. 1950	Temporary Indefinite
Social Affairs				
7. Shurigin, Mr. V.	P-3	Soc. Aff. Off.	15 May 1951	Fixed Term to 14 May '53
Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self Governing Territories				
8. Kasaniev, Mr. V.	P-5	Chief, Quest. & Terr. Reports Sect.	3 May 1950	Fixed Term to 2 May '53
9. Kossov, Mrs. E.	P-2	Prof. Off.	6 April 1953	Fixed Term to 5 Apr. '54
Department of Public Information				
10. Loginov, Mr. V.	P-4	Chief, Russian Language Service, Radio	14 Mar. 1953	Fixed Term to 13 Mar. '54
11. Ekimov, Mr. C.	P-3	Programme Off.	28 Nov. 1952	Fixed Term to 27 Nov. '53
12. Alipov, Mr. I.	P-2	Info. Off.	23 Oct. 1950	Temporary Indefinite
13. Bordy, Mrs. M.	P-2	Photographer	26 Aug. 1946	Permanent

*Alipov*

*P 2.*

27 April 1953

Dear Mr. Vyshinsky,

May I refer to our conversation last Tuesday. In the course of our talk you informed me that Mr. Zinchenko, being ill, would not return to New York in order to resume his responsibilities as Assistant Secretary General. You felt that his post should be filled by a man with the same experience and background, and suggested as a candidate to the post Mr. Tikhvinsky, whose curriculum vitae you presented to me in a special memo.

For my part, as you will remember, I took note of your information, the wish expressed and the candidature proposed. I explained to you that my general policy for the immediate future had to be to avoid filling vacancies where such action might tie my hands at a later date when a decision could be reached on various pending proposals concerning a reform of the administrative structure of the Secretariat. In reply you pointed out, that you did not find that this general principle should apply to the case you had raised, in view of the fact that there obviously must be a need for the Secretariat to have on its top level somebody with the background of Mr. Tikhvinsky's.

I have now given what you told me serious consideration and should like to inform you of my conclusions.

I agree with your view that, under present circumstances, it is appropriate that the Soviet Union be represented on the top level of the Secretariat like other important parts of the world. However, the more thought I devote to this question, the more doubtful I feel about the wisdom of maintaining a large number of Assistant Secretaries General and applying in that group a quota system or attempting to reach some kind of universality. It seems to me that a considerable

His Excellency  
Mr. A.Y. Vyshinsky  
First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics to the United Nations  
680 Park Avenue  
New York 21, N.Y.

reduction of the number of officials immediately under the Secretary-General would be a desirable reform, and that such a reform could not be made without abandoning the present effort to get all main areas represented in the group. May I remind you that a proposal to the effect, that the number of top officials under the Secretary General should be reduced to three, was put before the General Assembly at its seventh session and met with the approval of the Assembly.

The considerations just set out indicate, in my view, that the question raised by you must be treated in such a way as not to prejudice future developments. Equally I find it natural that, as the administrative organization is at present constituted, the Soviet Union should be represented on the Assistant Secretary-General level. Consequently I feel that I should assign a suitable candidate from the Soviet Union as Acting Assistant Secretary-General for the remaining period of Mr. Zinchenko's term of office. It goes without saying that, should a similar situation arise for any of the other Assistant Secretary General posts, I should act in the same way. In fact, the situation may arise very soon as Mr. Byron Price wishes to leave his office.

Before I proceed to assign anybody as Acting Assistant Secretary General after Mr. Zinchenko, I should like to investigate more fully existing possibilities of recruitment. I trust that the candidate which you suggest is qualified, but in the light of the somewhat specialized background experience which seems to be his, I should prefer to have a possibility of considering alternatives. At all events I must reserve my right to decide on the division of the responsibilities between the Assistant Secretaries General. My decision in that case will, of course, be based entirely on the interest of the greatest possible efficiency. It would be facilitated if I had a wider pannel from which to select a successor to Mr. Zinchenko.

For these reasons I should like to ask you to try and supply me with some supplementary candidates, if possible representing an experience covering also other parts of the world than the Far East. I will, myself, make a review of the Soviet Officials engaged in other UN activities in order to see if there is somebody who appears to be suitable, in which case I should like to discuss his name with you.

- 3 -

As we shall meet at your dinner party, for which I renew my thanks, and at my luncheon later in the week, I have not wished to bother you by asking you to come to my office. I have preferred to inform you of my reaction in this way.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General

SECRETARY GENERAL

D R A F T

2 May 1953

Dear Mr. Vyshinsky,

Our luncheon conversation - which I enjoyed indeed - left me in an unpleasant dilemma because of your declaration that you did not see any possibility to suggest alternatives to Mr. Tikhvinsky as candidate for the post as Assistant Secretary General in the United Nations Secretariat.

You know the position. While not admitting any "rights" for any country to representation on any level of the Secretariat - and so much more in any specific position - I, like you, find it appropriate and desirable that, under present arrangements, one of the Assistant Secretaries General should come from your country. On the other hand the Assistant Secretary General position is the highest one in the Secretariat. The Assistant Secretaries General function, as you know, as my alternates, and are recruited on a very high level of diplomatic and civil service; for example, at present you will find among them three previous ambassadors (one of which was deputy foreign secretary of a big power) one previous High Commissioner, and so on. Mr. Protitch himself, who is now in charge of Security Council Affairs, held in 1946, when he came here, already the position of Counselor in London and has here for long periods had to assume the responsibilities of an Assistant Secretary General, as you know, serving with great distinction; the new man has to be instituted as his superior. I know, Mr. Vyshinsky, that your great experience as a

*and Minister Charge d' Affaires*

MINISTER

lawyer, foreign (servant) and politician, makes you understand me when I say that, whatever the qualities of Mr. Tikhvinsky are, it is against good administrative procedure and policy to nominate him, now a counselor, 35 years old, to the post in question only for reasons of his nationality and on the basis of the judgement of his home government. When you presented him to me as the only possibility and at the same time stressed the urgency of a positive reply, you were putting me in a very difficult position, indeed, as the one responsible for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. The situation might be looked upon by some people as one of duress, but I know that that is entirely against your intentions as it would be against the principles of the Charter.

When I suggested to you that we might arrange a meeting between myself and Mr. Tikhvinsky, I was trying to find a possibility to add a personal judgment to that of the Soviet Government which would justify my acting in accordance with your wishes in spite of the objections to which I have just referred. However, you pointed out yourself the complications which would arise if I should try to follow this line. After further consideration I feel that you were right and that we should not arrange any such meeting.

In the situation in which I, thus, find myself, I intend to act as follows, provided that you have no better suggestion to make. I do so in the firm conviction that you will understand my policy.

(a) I shall announce that you have told me that Mr. Zinchenko, being ill, cannot return to his post, <sup>and have</sup> that I replied that, under those circumstances, I wish to see somebody from the Soviet Union succeed him

as Assistant Secretary-General for the remaining part of his term of office, this time limit<sup>being</sup> introduced in view of the fact that the central administrative structure of the Secretariat in accordance with a decision of the Assembly last year, is under ~~reconsideration~~<sup>VIEW</sup>. To this should be added that I<sup>have</sup> asked you to help me to find suitable candidates and that, pending a nomination, I have ~~assigned~~<sup>ASKED</sup> Mr. Protitch<sup>TO CONTINUE</sup> as acting Assistant Secretary-General.

(b) At the same time I am willing to offer Mr. Tikhvinsky a suitable post on the Secretariat either as some kind of consultant to Mr. Protitch or on the D-level. If this experiment turns out well, I am willing to promote him in due time to the post as Assistant Secretary General.

At my luncheon you very kindly invited me to dine with you some evening next week. Looking at my diary I ~~find~~<sup>on</sup> that I had only one night left and that, unfortunately, was yesterday booked in a way which you will certainly understand I had to accept, namely for a farewell dinner given by Mr. Lie for me. I hope that I may at an early date avail myself of the much appreciated possibility of dining with you in your home. Before then ~~in fact in a very few days~~ I hope to have your reaction to my proposals in this letter.

Believe me Mr. Vyshinsky,

Yours most sincerely,

TIKHOVINSKY Serguey Leonidovich, born in Leningrad in 1918. Graduated from Leningrad University in 1939. Candidate in historical sciences. From 1939 to 1940 -- Vice-Consul of the Consulate General in Dikua (Urumchi); from 1940 to 1943 -- responsible expert in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; from 1943 to 1945 -- Second Secretary of the Embassy in China; from 1945 to 1947 -- Vice-Consul and Administrator of the Consulate-General in Peiping; from 1948 to 1949 -- Consul General in Peiping; from 1949 to 1950 -- Counsellor of Embassy in China and Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the USSR in China; from 1950 to 1953 -- Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Took part in international conferences: In 1950 as expert to the Delegation of the USSR to the Fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; in 1952-53 as expert to the Delegation of the USSR to the Seventh Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Knows the Chinese and English languages.

2 May 1953

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