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UN/secretariat matters 1954

Berlin/Geneva Conference

15 April

1 letter from O.H. — to Henry Cabot Lodge (Perun. Repr.  
of the United States of America to the UN)

15 April 1954

Sir,

I find it necessary to report to you the difficulties in which the United Nations Secretariat finds itself in contributing services to the Conference which is to be convened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 26 April.

On the basis of information so far received from representatives of the sponsoring powers, the Secretariat is not expected in any sense to service the Conference but rather to provide supplementary services to those provided singly or collectively by members of the Conference. The problem of providing even these limited supplementary services, however, has been complicated by the fact that no data has yet been received from delegations representing the sponsoring powers upon which we could base any calculations for supplementary services. The French Delegation, representing the sixteen members of the Conference, has indicated that we would not be expected to provide any personnel for translation or documentation services. It was assumed that we would be asked to provide some interpreters although no indication has been received as to the number of interpreters or the languages to be covered by them. We are prepared, as I indicated at the time the Conference was announced, to provide any technical services which the Conference might require but the failure of any

His Excellency,  
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
of America to the United Nations,  
2 Park Avenue,  
New York 16, N. Y.

member or group of members to specify their needs leaves us without any option except to stand by until such information is forthcoming. We have, of course, taken preliminary steps to adjust the schedule of other United Nations meetings at the Palais des Nations to provide space and facilities for the Conference and have already allocated adequate space in the Palais for Conference needs.

It has been agreed that the Conference be paid by its participants and expenses incurred by the United Nations will be reimbursed. I consider that the services of the United Nations Secretariat should be regarded as services to the Conference as a whole. This principle should apply even though it may develop that requests for services from individual delegations or groups of delegations may vary slightly.

In order to avoid complications on this point, I would urge strongly that the liaison officers now convened in Geneva representing the four sponsoring powers be authorized to make a collective request for services through Mr. Pelt for my consideration.

I wish to repeat that the United Nations Secretariat remains ready, although the time is now becoming critically short, to provide any supplementary technical services that may be required for the proper operation of the Conference.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

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