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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

UR/Secretariat matters 1954

Public Information Studies

13 May 54

Letter from David Blickenstaff (Centre d'Informations des N. U.)

- to D. H.

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CENTRE D'INFORMATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LA BELGIQUE, LA FRANCE ET LE LUXEMBOURG

36, RUE LA PÉROUSE
P A R I S - X V I E
TÉL. : KLÉ. 52-00-POSTE: 27-77
CABLES : PAROMNIPRESS-PARIS

13 May 1954

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld.

The absence of Mr. Robert Schuman from Paris during the past few weeks, combined with my own travels have prevented me from seeing him till yesterday evening when he left the National Assembly to spend our 45 minutes with me.

He was charming, most friendly and expressed his appreciation of the greetings I brought him on your behalf, he being, as he put it, no more than "un simple député". Indo-China was on his mind; he seemed discouraged at the way things were going in the Assembly. And he recalled, with sadness, the number of times he had explained the true meaning of the Indo-China war to Dean Acheson who always listened with patience and sympathy but without conviction.

He himself mentioned the exchange of letters with you regarding the study on interpreting the United Nations to the European public. He was, he said, greatly interested in the question and he hoped that you could send

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him the memorandum mentioned in your first letter. As he now saw it he thought he might be able to come to New York to discuss the matter with you, as you had suggested, sometime around the middle of June and he wondered if this would fit into your plans. I promised to transmit this information to you.

His finding work here in the Centre interesting, varied and extremely frustrating. The French are just too smart for their own good. The result is that everyone steams away in a hot fog of cynical, intellectual "je m'en foutisme" and nothing ever gets done.

One of my major preoccupations has been to reduce the number of telephones on my desk, left there by my predecessor. There are at present four of them! It looks rather silly, and anyhow, telephones never did work very well over here.

Best regards to yourself + to the colleagues on the 38th floor -

Respectfully

David Blichsenstaf

The enclosed clipping is from the monthly supplement "Economic Review" of the Paris Herald Tribune
10 May 1954