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Staff Representation

15 Feb. - 13 Dec.

- 1 letter from D.H. - to Pierre Joré (Chairman of the Staff Committee, Geneva)
- 1 letter from P. Joré - to D.H.

15 February 1954

Dear Mr. Isoré,

I am sorry there has not been an earlier opportunity of acknowledging your letter of 23 December 1953. In so doing, however, I would wish to assure you that the matters dealt with therein are matters with which I have been, and continue to be, very much preoccupied.

There would seem to be little useful purpose in attempting, at this late stage, to review in any detail the situation as it developed during consideration by the Fifth Committee and by the General Assembly of the question of personnel policy. You and your colleagues will, I am sure, share my feeling that the problem to which our joint efforts can now most usefully be directed, is that of ensuring a closer and more continuous contact for the mutual interchange of opinions and ideas between the Secretary-General and his staff, wherever that staff may be located. In the case of the recently enacted amendments to the Staff Regulations, I can readily understand that Geneva staff representatives should feel themselves somewhat handicapped by the fact that time and distance precluded as active and direct a participation in the formulation of personnel proposals as their colleagues at Headquarters were able to have with myself and my advisers both prior to and in the course of their discussion in the General Assembly. I find it difficult to believe, however, that there could have been any possibility of doubt or misunderstanding

Mr. Pierre Isoré, Chairman,
Staff Committee,
European Office of the United Nations,
Geneva, Switzerland

as to my attitude towards the question of postponement. My strong conviction that, in the interests of the staff, no less than of the Organisation itself, previously existing uncertainties and ambiguities in the Regulations and in the Tribunal Statute should be urgently remedied had, I thought, been made abundantly clear, both to representatives of the staff and to delegations. While it is true that the desirability of deferring action for a further year was informally suggested by some three or four delegations during the initial stages of debate, this point of view, in the light of the discussion as it developed, was in no instance formally maintained. The decision to proceed with amendments to the Regulations at the eighth session was, in fact, a virtually unanimous one.

I have taken note of your observations regarding the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations and of the role which the representatives of the United Nations staff in Europe are in a position to play in that connection. There are, you rightly point out, certain formal and procedural problems to consider in relation to the Federation's status, but I am confident that these are questions which can, on a basis of free and frank exchange of views, in due time be satisfactorily resolved.

With reference to the establishment of the Advisory Board, for which provision is made under Regulation 9.1 (a), I shall also bear in mind the anxiety of the Geneva staff to be brought into the orbit of joint consultation in some appropriate manner. I hope that it will be possible to

discuss this, along with other matters referred to, on the occasion of my next visit to Geneva which should take place in the latter part of May and early June in conjunction with the scheduled meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and of the Economic and Social Council.

In the meantime, the good wishes you have so kindly conveyed to me on behalf of your colleagues of the Staff Committee and of yourself are very warmly reciprocated.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General

EUROPEAN OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

STAFF COMMITTEE

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(à rappeler dans la réponse)



OFFICE EUROPÉEN
DES NATIONS UNIES

COMITÉ DU PERSONNEL

Palais des Nations
GENÈVE

le 13 décembre 1954

Monsieur le Secrétaire général,

Je suis heureux de vous exprimer les remerciements de tous les membres du Personnel de l'Office européen pour le message que vous avez bien voulu leur adresser à l'occasion de la Journée du Secrétariat. Ce message leur a été lu au début de la réunion que nous avons tenue dans la Salle des conseils et il a été suivi d'allocutions prononcées par le Directeur-adjoint de l'Office européen, le Haut Commissaire pour les réfugiés et moi-même, cependant que le message de M. Pelt, que nous avons reçu la veille, était distribué aux assistants à l'entrée de la salle.

Nous espérons pouvoir choisir pour la Journée du Secrétariat de l'année prochaine une date qui vous laissera peut-être la possibilité d'y assister en personne.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, avec tous les souhaits que je forme pour vous à l'occasion de la Noël et du Nouvel An, l'assurance de mon respectueux dévouement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Pierre Isoré", is written over a horizontal line.

Pierre Isoré,
Président du Comité du Personnel

Monsieur le Secrétaire général
de l'Organisation des Nations Unies,
NEW YORK