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UN/Secretariat matters 1954

Transfer of Personnel

7-30 June

- 3 letters from D.H. - to Dr. P.S. Lokanathan (Exec. Sec.,
UN. Economic Commission for Asia
and the Far East)
- 1 letter from H.L. Keenleyside (Technical Assistance Administration)
- to Dr. P.S. Lokanathan

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IN REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE NO.

Graft
7 June 1954

My dear Lokanathan,

Katzin has passed to me your letter of 1 June in reply to the representations I asked him to put to you on my behalf in his letter of 21 May.

~~Feeling~~ I must first clear up some ~~initial~~ misconceptions which arise from your ~~claims~~ that you are being deprived of Schaaf's services not at your urging or at his request but as an act of negation on the part of ECAFE in return for which special considerations are justly due. It is implicit to my responsibility for the best and most advantageous use of all staff of the Secretariat that I should affect such change in individual assignments from time to time as might be required in the total interests of the organization as a whole, and I alone must take the responsibility of judging this overall need in the light of factors which in the very nature of things must primarily become available to me, and cannot be expected to be known to executives exercising responsibility for special areas of activity throughout the Secretariat. I cannot therefore regard Schaaf's willingness to accept a transfer of assignment or your acquiescence to such transfer, which cooperation is of course appreciated by me, to suggest any special significance other than a common appreciation by all of us of the necessity for this degree of flexibility in the utilization of our total staff resources.

~~In the matter of the choice of his successor, I agree that every necessary consideration should be taken into account, and, I can assure you that my proposal to you was made only after the most careful thought on my part not only as to the interests of the organization as a whole but also of your very special interests in the case. Before making my firm proposal to you, I weighed carefully in the balance both your known preference to have Caustin in the job as also the relative merits of other available candidates whom I believed to be suitable for consideration. When I determined that on overall considerations I could not agree to transferring Caustin to this assignment, I proposed that Mr. de Breuvery be detailed to the post only after I had checked my views both with Mr. Georges-Picot and with Mr. Blough. With every respect of course to your own opinion, I must frankly state that whatever views may have been expressed to you at other levels of the Department, these gentlemen are not in disagreement with me. I think~~

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that you must rely upon my judgement of the various candidates whose work and personality I have been observing at first hand for many months past, rather than on casual impressions or opinions which might have been suggested to you on your brief visit here.

I believe that de Breuvery has the qualifications you require and that he is the best available candidate that we have here for you. The circumstance of his nationality has not been the governing or decisive factor of my judgement. It is a desirable contributing factor in the context of my responsibility to deploy our staff resources on as broad a geographical basis as possible, but I would exercise this discretion in the case in point only if I were satisfied, as I am, that all other considerations have been taken into account by me.

I think that you will appreciate from the above that I do not, as you suggest, consider Mr. de Breuvery to be of inadequate measure nor would I base my decision on inadequacy of any sort. My observation of Mr. de Breuvery and my conversations here satisfy me that he possesses the required qualifications. His known feeling for and deep interest in the welfare of the peoples of the Far East and of Asia, and his knowledge of that region will in addition add to, rather than detract from, his value to you.

I cannot I regret entertain Caustin's transfer to ECAFE. I would ask you to accept my judgement that de Breuvery will be able to perform the job adequately and sincerely. I know that I can count upon your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General

Dr. P.S. Lokanathan
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Asia
and the Far East
Rajadamnern Avenue,
Bangkok, Thailand

DRAFT

I want to clear up a misapprehension that seems to have arisen from the adjustment of your staff at the senior level. I do not feel that the degree of willingness of the head of the unit to release a senior staff member can in any way modify my own attitude toward the principle I must maintain regarding his replacement, and that principle is a simple one. In the over-all adjustment of staff within the Secretariat, I must always keep in mind the strength of its individual units. The work of ECAFE is not only of vital importance to the region but plays an important role in the total accomplishments of the United Nations.

Your appreciation of Schaaf is a source of genuine satisfaction to me. In fact, your attitude regarding him is a compliment both to you and to Schaaf. It shows a healthy situation in contrast to those rather too numerous cases where supervisors are more than willing to drop members of their staff. Regardless, therefore, of Schaaf's competence and your ^{ATTITUDE} willingness ~~to release~~ ^{TOWARD} him, I would feel under a very special obligation to provide you with a totally satisfactory successor.

11 June, 1954

Dear Dr. Lokanathan,

This is the first opportunity I have had to write you after our meetings in New York during the Conference of Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions. I wish to reiterate once more how pleased all of us here in the Technical Assistance Administration were to have the expression of your frank and direct views about the projects of common concern to us and the general development of our programme in Asia and the Far East.

Mr. Martínez Caballero and I were particularly pleased to have the informal exchange of views we had in my office and later on in our official meetings when Technical Assistance was discussed at the round-table meeting with you and your colleagues of the other regions.

Following the spirit of our conversations, and as a further means of strengthening cooperation between TAA and ECAFE, I should be very much interested in knowing the possibility of your consenting to release Mr. Nyun, the Chief of your Industrial Development Division, to be appointed to the post of Chief of our Area Office for Asia and the Far East in substitution for Miss Hinder when she retires later this year.

In making this proposal, I have in mind the need for having a person from that region with knowledge of the problems of economic development and of the traditions, customs and environment of the Asian world. And it would, of course, be extremely helpful to have a person well acquainted with the work of your Commission which has been so successfully handled.

In selecting Mr. Nyun, we believe that we would have an admirable combination of the two elements mentioned above. This is confirmed by the excellent reports received from Mr. Tichner who was in close

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association with Mr. Nyun during his recent assignments in Bangkok and Rangoon. We can think of no better candidate and I shall therefore be very grateful to you if you will join with me in a joint proposal to the Secretary General to allow us to fill in this way a post which is vital to our programme in the Far East and extremely important in our relations with your Commission.

In making this proposal to you I do not want to create any unnecessary problem in your internal organisation and I shall therefore be prepared to agree with you as to the date for the transfer of Mr. Nyun, provided that it is not later than the end of the present year. A few weeks earlier or later in the appointment of the new area chief will not make too much difference but the important thing to have settled is the knowledge of your acceptance.

I hope that your journey back to Bangkok was safe and pleasant. All of us here look forward with anticipation to our next meeting and to continued effective cooperation in the interim.

With warm personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Keenleyside
Director General
Technical Assistance Administration

Drafted by: Gustavo Martínez Cabafias:bd