

# Trips: Trips - 26

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Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

Trip to San Francisco 1955

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May 18 - June 14

Corresp. D.H. - Dwight D. Eisenhower (President of USA)

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1955

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Thank you very much for your cordial invitation to address the commemorative celebration of the United Nations, to be held in San Francisco in June.

For some time I have felt that the engagements already represented on my calendar were too numerous to permit the inclusion of another one, especially one involving a trip across the continent. However, in view of your expressed concern and interest, I shall take the matter again under advisement and will try to give you a definite answer within a matter of a few days.

Again my thanks for the compliment implicit in your invitation.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
United Nations, New York

Dwight D. Eisenhower

18 May 1955

Dear Mr. President:

Through Ambassador Lodge and in other ways you will have heard about the keen hope of all working in and for the United Nations to see you at the 10th commemoration in San Francisco as spokesman at the closing session, on 26 June, not only for our great host country but also for all fighters for peace and justice. You will also have received from the authorities of the city of San Francisco their invitation to you. I feel that they are looking forward to your possible participation as the crowning event of this commemoration week to which they are giving so much thought and effort.

Personally, I have not felt that I should send you a formal invitation unless and until the plan was approved by you, and as I have not had the privilege of seeing you, I have therefore so far had no opportunity to express my personal views. However, I trust that you will permit me to do so now in this informal way.

We pass at present a most crucial period in the work for peace in which the United States is playing such a decisive role. At this time it seems more essential than ever to strengthen the faith and give direction to the will of all those who support the efforts for which the United Nations stands as a symbol. Therefore, the celebration in San Francisco has taken on a new significance. It will be organized at a time when a renewal of the pledge of Member Governments to the ideals expressed in the Charter will be of real significance. I feel that anything which might be interpreted as reflecting doubts, hesitation or reserve will be given exaggerated significance and may harm the work for peace. Especially it seems to me to be essential that the great nation which at present is the leader of the free world in the fight for peace should in the minds of all the world be closely identified with what the United Nations stands for.

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Thus - quite apart from the very great privilege for all who work in and for the United Nations as well as for the people on the West Coast that your personal attendance at the closing session would mean - all that your presence symbolizes would have a much wider impact and significantly contribute to the work for peace which now may have got a new chance.

I am well aware of your heavy responsibilities as well as of the difficulties that may exist to fit a visit to San Francisco into your other plans, but convinced of the significance of this occasion I have felt that you will understand me if in this way - which is the only one now available to me - I bring to your attention my personal views on the matter.

14 June 1955

Dear Mr. President,

I was delighted to be informed by Ambassador Lodge of your decision to address the United Nations Commemorative Meetings on June 20. I expressed my appreciation to him, and I want to underline it by a direct message to you.

My appreciation is intensified by the knowledge of the weight of your responsibilities and the fullness of your schedule.

I have been very much pleased by the seriousness with which the delegations and Member-Governments have made their preparations for the meetings. We feel that the meetings can contribute to the sound growth of the Organization. Although a decade of experience is brief, it does provide opportunity for evaluation and for the development of some measure of perspective.

We anticipate with pleasure your presence at San Francisco next Monday.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

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