

Trips: Trips - 82

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Trip to Geneva - Sweden - Geneva 1955

July 4

Cutting from New York Times sent by H.L. Keenley -

- side to D.H

U. S. BUREAUCRATS CONFUSE GENEVA

Officials Preparing for Big 4
Parley Lack Data on Size
of American Mission

By MICHAEL L. HOFFMAN

Special to The New York Times.

GENEVA, July 4—The chief impact here of United States preparation for the Big Four conference has been the introduction of the special kind of administrative confusion that is native to the lower reaches of the Potomac.

It is not a question of United States policies or motives, but simply the extraordinary complication American officials seem to make for themselves in arranging things.

The Genevese have seen a lot, but they have not before seen anything like a high-level Washington snafu.

The Russians, British and French had their staffs taken care of weeks ago—villas or chateaux for the top officials and hotels rooms for the lesser persons.

It is all done by an experienced and highly efficient central office known as the "Intérêts de Genève," a sort of tourist promotion bureau.

The harassed gentlemen who perform these services cannot find out even how many Americans are coming. Sometimes it is 300. Sometimes it is nearer thirty. Sometimes it is a secret. Depends on who is asked.

The problem of finding a place for President Eisenhower to stay is made to order for the experts

in compounding bureaucratic confusion.

For one thing, it involves several Government departments, the White House and the Secret Service, all of which keep the cables humming with mutually contradictory instructions and advice to officials on the spot.

For another, everything to do with the matter is kept high in the security classifications. It almost seems as if the object is to make it impossible for the numerous officials involved to discuss it with one another or with the only persons who can really do anything about it, namely, the Geneva authorities and the Swiss Army, which has ultimate security responsibility.

Eventually, of course, they will find some place for the President to stay. But time is getting short for organizing a catering service and arranging a domestic staff. It is by no means certain that a good chef can be found who is emotionally capable of working with Secret Service men popping out at him every now and then.

Many eager Americans are already filling the corridors of the Hotel du Rhône, three floors of which house the permanent United States delegation here, and most of the rest of which is already an American camp.

The massive locked briefcases, the bright bow ties, the looks of confidence on the thoroughly security-screened faces are enough to make the local expatriates, accustomed to working in the normal Geneva calm, long for home.

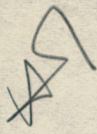
One consular official, hardened by years of coping with visiting bureaucrats, was watching the confusion at its mid-afternoon height the other day.

"If they cannot mess it up," he said, with true national pride in his voice, "nobody can."

EUROPEAN OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

OFFICE EUROPÉEN
DES NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM


To: The Secretary-General

From: H.L. Keenleyside

Our Ref: HK/mj.....

Geneva, 12 July 1955.....

Your Ref:

Subject:

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The attached cutting from the New York Times may have escaped your attention. Perhaps it will provide a moment of relaxation in your heavy duties here - particularly the last two paragraphs.

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