

# UN-Secretariat matters A-Sa: UN-Secretariat matters A-Sa - 41

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

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Salary Expert Group

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23 Feb.

Letter from D.H. — to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (India)

23 February 1955

Dear Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar,

I have decided, with the concurrence of the Directors General of the specialized agencies, to convene a small group of independent experts to review certain aspects of our present salary system - in particular the question of "differentials" applied to the base salaries of "international" staff away from New York, cost-of-living adjustments and dependency allowances.

In view of your long experience with various aspects of the United Nations, it is my hope that you would find it possible to serve as a member of this group of experts.

I am approaching Mr. Arthur Flemming, whom I have asked to act as Chairman of the group in view of his previous experience in 1949 as Chairman of the Committee of Experts on Salary Allowances and Leave Systems. The recommendations of that Committee formed the basis of our present salary and leave system. In addition to yourself and Mr. Flemming, I am also inviting Dr. Philip J. Idenburg, Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics at The Hague, and Professor Bachi of Israel to join the group, and I am in touch with Dr. Prebisch, Executive Secretary of the United

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Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, with a view to obtaining his recommendation regarding a suitable candidate from Latin America.

As I envisage the schedule at present, the committee should convene in New York sometime between the second half of March and the early part of May for a session lasting about two to three weeks. In the meantime, the Secretariat would prepare the necessary documentation. This would allow sufficient time for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider the report of the group of experts when the Committee meets during the summer.

The United Nations will pay the cost of travel and a subsistence allowance at the rate of \$25 per day while serving in New York, or \$20 per day should any meetings be held outside this country. I am anxious that the membership of the committee should be as authoritative as possible, in order that its conclusions may carry full weight with the General Assembly, which in due course will consider the issues involved. I should, therefore, be deeply indebted to you if you would find it possible to serve as a member of the group.

Please let me know by telegram at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General