

UN-Secretariat matters - Se-W: UN-Secretariat matters - Se-W - 1

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

UN/Secretariat matters 1955

SECCO Affairs

8-12 July

- a) 1 letter from D.H. - to Henry Cabot Lodge (Perm. Repr. of the USA to the UN)
- b) 1 letter from H. C. Lodge - to D.H.



THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

Two Park Avenue
New York City
July 12, 1955

Dear Dag:

Thanks for yours of July 8th sent to me
in Beverly. I will study it with the greatest
care and you will hear from me again on the
subject very soon.

Best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Lodge, Jr.
Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

8 July 1955

Dear Cabot:

May I write to you concerning a matter which is likely to come up during my absence and on which I would like you to be informed about my thinking.

In the introduction to the Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly I discuss the development of procedures in the United Nations. In the text you find the following two sentences:

"There is, for example, the so far unused provision of the Charter for special periodic meetings of the Security Council. Might not this provision be invoked and procedures developed in the Council which would give increased continuity and intensified contact in the treatment of certain questions of world concern?"

Those are the sentences I would like to explain, as there is behind them an idea that I hope the members of the Security Council will be willing to consider favourably.

What I have in mind is that the Security Council should meet each month (a) once in closed session (as you certainly know, closed meetings are foreseen in the Rules of Procedure), (b) with an agenda established once and for all on which (c) the first item is "Report by the Secretary-General on recent developments within the United Nations sphere of activities", and (d) the second item is just "Other questions".

His Excellency
Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
275 Hale Street
Beverly, Massachusetts

The report of the Secretary-General should review briefly points which would be of interest for the Security Council and which might be found to call for later consideration. The review would not include political judgments or requests for consideration. The initiative on the two last mentioned scores should be left to the Members. As the meetings would be closed it would do no harm even if nobody found reason to say a word on the points raised in the Secretary-General's report.

After a couple of times I am sure that, if properly explained from the beginning, the procedure and the fact that the Council meets in closed session would be properly understood by the Press and speculations avoided.

I have various reasons for this proposal. The first one is that it is most desirable to give prestige to the Security Council which at present suffers a period of great weakness in public opinion. The suggested procedure would undoubtedly again put the Council on the map. Second, the suggested procedure would add very much to the inner cohesion of the work of the Council, for example on such issues as Palestine where a continuity of contacts with the developments would be guaranteed. Third, with the proposed procedure we would have a much smoother way for the Council to go into consideration of this and that essential matter, than we have at present when an initiative always overdramatizes the issues concerned. Fourth, it would accustom the press and the public to the fact that things have to be explored in the Security Council out of the full light of publicity. Thus it would provide a much more quiet background for at least an initial consideration of various issues, certainly to the benefit of their treatment.

The only objection I can see against the suggested procedure would be that it might give the Secretary-General a responsibility which, if abused, might cause embarrassment to the Members of the Council. However, as the meetings would be closed, a delegate who felt that an issue was raised in the Security Council which should not have been raised, would be in a position to straighten things out without any noise or loss of prestige for any of the

parties. Thus, I cannot find that the risk to which I refer is of any significance. And, after all, given the position of the Secretary-General in relation to the Security Council according to the Charter he should be trusted not to abuse the specific possibilities which the procedure would open.

I am sure that the procedure proposed would contribute essentially to a reestablishment of the position and the life of the Security Council, and in that way to the strength of the Organization as a whole. I would like to explain this matter to the four foreign ministers when I meet them in Geneva. Knowing your interest in the United Nations and its sound development I trust that a procedure of the kind I have in mind, with or without modifications or special safeguards, will meet with your support.

I appreciate very much your invitation to Beverly. The temptation was great with the memory of the pleasant days last year still very much alive.

With kindest regards to all of the Lodges and au revoir,