

Trips: Trips - 26

HS L 179:68



Dag Hammarskjöld's samd.

Sec. Gen.'s trip to Pakistan 1956

Feb. 2

March 21

Corresp. Sec. Gen.

— Huntington Gilchrist (Resident

Representative in Pakistan, Technical
Assistance Board)

In the light of the fact that the trip occurred to us when the Secretary-General was on his last trip of this kind...

In my short experience I am extremely interested in the work of the Secretary-General and over the years, I believe, he has made a very good use of his time. The reports, however, must be made with care and to the best of our ability. It is another and there is no one who can help the Secretary-General in the Organization like the Secretary-General himself.

I realize the many delicate and important matters which are political in nature and the Secretary-General must be able to handle them and the organizing place which contacts with the Secretary-General in the countries he visits must have in the program.

If, however, the Secretary-General could give some part of his time to the work of the IB in the countries he visits, I believe it would pay immense dividends and I hope that the proposition of time would not be a sacrifice to his other duties. Such recognition of the IB program would help the local representatives of the IB in their work or giving them increased recognition and prestige in the eyes of the Government as well as to boosting the morale generally.

In accomplishing this process, might I suggest certain specific steps which might be taken:

- 1) Despatch of a circular note from the Secretary-General's office in New York to the IB offices in the field, preferably before a trip is announced to the public, outlining briefly the itinerary, the trip's purposes, and proposed contacts.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General
c/o UNHQ
Trinity Court,
New York

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

phones:
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234

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN PAKISTAN
P. O. BOX NO. 86
KARACHI-1

Cable Address:
"TECABOARD", KARACHI

2 February 1956

reference: 324

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld,

In the light of our conversations here, some further thoughts occurred to me which I thought I might pass on at once as they may be of interest to you for your present trip as well as for later trips of this kind which you may make.

In my short experience in Pakistan, I have found UN personnel extremely interested in their work and very loyal to the Organization and over the years, I believe, we have had in Pakistan the largest TA programme of any Member country - the schedule for 1956 calls for well over 100 experts in the Expanded and Regular programmes. The experts, however, meet with constant frustrations of one sort or another and there is no one who can help to build the morale of the Organization like the Secretary-General himself.

I realize the many delicate and important problems in the political field to which the Secretary-General must give priority, and the outstanding place which contacts with the leaders in the countries he visits must have in his programme.

If, however, the Secretary-General could give from 10 - 20 per cent of his time to the work of UN staff in the countries he visits, I believe it would pay handsome dividends and I hope that this proportion of time would not be a handicap to his other duties. Such recognition of the TA programmes would help the local representatives of the UN in their work by giving them increased recognition and prestige in the eyes of the Government as well as by boosting the morale generally.

To accomplish this purpose, might I suggest certain specific steps which might be taken:

- 1) Despatch of a circular note from the Secretary-General's office in New York to the UN leaders in the field, preferably before a trip is announced to the public, outlining briefly the itinerary, the trip's purposes, and proposed contacts;

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General
c/o UNTAB
Promote Court,
RANGOON

/...



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- 2 -

- 2) In a second follow-up note to the chief UN representatives in each place to be visited, the Secretary-General might indicate that he would like to meet with all of them in a group as a team when he arrives and before he leaves. Such a group meeting might only last for 5/10 minutes but it would give these chief UN representatives the impression that they "belonged" to the UN Secretary-General's local "team". He could obtain any pertinent suggestions at the start of his visit and give his team members before his departure any useful "tips" resulting from his visit.
- 3) This second follow-up note might also indicate to each Resident Representative the amount of time which would probably be available for an appointment; (this could be checked, of course, with the local Government people in charge of the Secretary-General's overall programme to fix a definite appointment); and what kind of briefing the Secretary-General would prefer; what he might like to discuss with the Resident Representatives, and whether he would anticipate a group meeting with experts or a visit to one or more projects.

Perhaps there are better ideas on this subject and none of these suggestions may prove to be practicable to you. It is difficult for me to judge all the problems which you face on such visits but I feel it may be worth while to send you this short note.

I appreciated the opportunity for the talk we had on Monday evening and of your kindness in reviewing with me so fully the problem of creating a more unified UN group in capitals like Karachi. This is, I feel, important as a means of according more appropriate recognition to UN elements in the field and of improving the efficiency of their operations. Perhaps you might permit me to write you further on this after you return to New York.

With best personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Huntington Gilchrist".
Huntington Gilchrist
Resident Representative

GIS/hd
21 March 1956

Dear Mr. Gilchrist,

Since my return to Headquarters, I have wanted to write and say that I did appreciate the opportunity of meeting you personally and discussing with you the problems encompassing all of the activities that one would like to undertake during such crowded programmes as were arranged for me in each country.

I was also glad to receive at Rangoon your letter of 2 February on the same subject.

As you know, the programme in each country was arranged by the Government and as the guest of each Government I could not necessarily arrange the priorities as though I had come, on my own initiative, to study the work of our own Field Missions.

I can foresee other visits to the field undertaken in a different context and in such cases many of the considerations mentioned in your letter would certainly apply.

I would be grateful if you would make it known to all who are associated with you in your important work that I am very conscious of the problems and possibilities in this essential

Mr. Huntington Gilchrist
Resident Representative in Pakistan
Technical Assistance Board
Post Office Box No. 86
Karachi
Pakistan

-2-

field of our activities and I am aware of the spirit of service that exists. Without that spirit it would have been impossible for you and your colleagues in the field to establish the various elements of the programme as successfully as you have all done.

With best personal wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold