

# Trips: Trips - 43

*HS L 179:68*



National Library  
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

Sec. Ceer's trip to India 1956

---

Jan. 31

Transcript of Sec. Ceer's remarks in Bombay

TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REMARKS

IN BOMBAY (INDIA), 31 JANUARY, 1956

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: This is my first visit to Bombay, and this is my first stop in India on a round-the-world tour. So far this tour has taken me to the Middle East. In fact, I started in Athens and Ankara and went on from there to Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq and, finally, to Pakistan.

After India, I will go on to the countries in South East Asia and, finally, to Australia and New Zealand. I will stay in India the better part of a week, first here in this short stop in Bombay; later I will stay a couple of days in Bangalore and, finally, I will go to Delhi as the guest of the Government.

I am happy to be back here in India. I was here last year but only for a short stay in Delhi on my way to Peking. The reason for this whole trip has been that I felt that it is right and useful if the Secretary-General goes out and visits Member countries, even if the stay can only be a short one. It is right because he should pay his respects and his tribute to those Member countries which contribute so essentially to the work of the United Nations. It is useful because it brings the problems of those countries much closer to him and to the Organization. He has an opportunity to talk not only to the delegates in New York, but also to other representatives of the people and political leaders in their national setting. I hope that it will also prove useful in another sense, that it may bring home to the peoples where we go that the United Nations is a live and active body, not only a political organ somewhere far away, but something which takes a direct and keen personal interest in what is happening everywhere and in the problems of peoples everywhere.

I have now ended my trip to the Middle Eastern countries. Yesterday I was in a position to issue a statement from Karachi covering that part of the journey. It was a statement, first of all, of gratitude to all the Member Governments which have done their utmost in order to make the journey fruitful and the visits both pleasant and useful to me. But it was more than that. It was, from my point of view, also an expression of the gratification, satisfaction and

(more)

encouragement that I felt because of the attitudes so strongly expressed by all the countries, the Governments of all the countries I visited. I met everywhere a reaffirmation of the Governments' belief in and faith in the United Nations, and the principles and ideals the United Nations stands for. I also met strong expressions of their wish to abstain from any acts of hostility or aggression and, above all, to settle conflicts, when they might arise, by peaceful means -- certainly a reaffirmation of principles to which all Member nations of the United Nations are pledged. Such a reaffirmation does not add anything new to the picture, but all the same it is valuable and, I am sure, welcome to all who have felt concern about the trends in the present world situation. I was happy to get those reaffirmations that did not, in any way, as I say, surprise me. All the same, it represented considerable encouragement to us in our work in the United Nations.

I said that I will stay a few days here in Bangalore, in India. The immediate reason for my going to Bangalore is that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East will hold a session there which will be attended also at the opening by Mr. Nehru. This Economic Commission, ECAFE, is the United Nations main organ in this region of the world. It has important economic tasks, as it should have, on a continent and in countries which have before them such overwhelming and such important economic problems. It is a centre for economic co-operation and for co-operation in the social field.

It is a pleasure for me to be able to attend at the opening of its meetings because in that way I will also get better acquainted with a most important part of human activities in this region. I am sure that on that occasion I will meet with many of the representatives of the various Member countries in Asia who are responsible for economic planning and economic rehabilitation. I can assure you that for me, and for us all who go to Bangalore, it will be a most welcome occasion in our turn to reaffirm our firm intention to help the countries of Asia in all the respects we can in their important work, and thus through international co-operation to contribute to the happy development of the standards of living, living conditions and the situation in general for the population of the countries in Asia.