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Africa Général

8 June 1961

Owen, David (Exec. Chairman, TAB)

- 1 memo. to D.H.

UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 4-1234

CABLE ADDRESS: TECABOARD * NEW YORK

REFERFNC: E

MEMORANDUM.To : The Secretary-General,
United Nations.

Date: 8 June 1961

From : David Owen,
Executive Chairman, TAB.

I plan to leave New York late on Tuesday evening, 13th June, for Geneva in preparation for a series of TAC, TAB, ECOSOC and special committee meetings. Before leaving, I should be grateful if you could give me a few minutes of your time to discuss two TAB resident representative appointments of which we have already spoken and which I shall have to discuss with the Directors-General during my stay in Europe.

The position in Tanganyika is that Richard Symonds (U.K.), who is normally my liaison officer in Geneva, is holding the fort in Dar-es-Salaam on an 'Acting' basis. He is doing well, but he is the first to emphasise the need to appoint a permanent representative (of preferred nationality) in good time before the date of independence - late December. I think it would be quite dangerous not to have whoever we have in mind in position in Tanganyika by the end of October at the latest. This would call for a fairly early decision, even though no announcement were made until nearer the transfer date.

So far as Bangkok is concerned, Cummings (U.S.), who is now Acting (in place of MacFarquhar), leaves for Rangoon at the end of June. Pigot (Ireland), the deputy, will then hold the fort for some weeks, but he is definitely not strong enough to be left in such an important post for long. It is indeed essential that he should be relieved by the end of September at the latest.

If I were fairly sure that I could have two senior colleagues in these posts by the times suggested, I think I could hold the position for a little while without embarrassment. If there is likely to be continued uncertainty, I feel I ought at least to be making some new stand-by arrangements.

David Owen.