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Dedication Plaque Van Heuven Goedhart

UN-Press release, — Message from the Sec. Gen, Geneva.

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UNITED NATIONS  
Department of Public Information  
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Press Release SG/677

2 May 1958

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD FOR CEREMONY  
DEDICATING PLAQUE TO THE LATE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,

DR. G. J. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHART, GENEVA, 2 MAY 1958\*

I am happy to be able to share today in this ceremony honoring Dr. van Heuven Goedhart.

As the first United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he worked tirelessly to carry out his mandate from the General Assembly -- to give international protection to refugees, to seek permanent solutions for their problems, and to administer emergency aid to relieve the most acute suffering. In that assignment, he had to fight to convince the world that a major refugee problem continued for so long after World War II and to find funds to hasten its solution.

How well he succeeded was illustrated by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to his Office, the Wateler Peace Prize to him personally, and posthumously the Nansen Medal which he himself had instituted two years before.

The Nansen Medal bears the words "Love of Man Is Practical Policy." These words seem especially fitting for Dr. van Heuven Goedhart; as editor, wartime resistance leader and United Nations official, he thrust the love of man into vigorous battle against indignity to man.

Today, in dedicating this plaque, we pay further homage. The best tribute of all, however, would be final success in the clear-the-camps drive now being waged by the High Commissioner's Office. Such success, by putting an end to the eroding years experienced by refugees, would be a truly lasting memorial to Dr. van Heuven Goedhart -- a humanitarian, a man of peace, and a fighter against injustice in every form.

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\*See Press Releases REF/149-150.

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