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UN/Secretariat matters 1958

International School

18 Jan.

1 letter from D.H. — to Henry Ford II, (President, Ford Motor Company)

18 January 1958

Dear Mr. Ford,

I should like to bring to your attention once more our interest in a project which was presented to the Ford Foundation several years ago. With the passing of time there has been no alleviation in the need for a United Nations Library and in fact the usefulness of the Library to the United Nations and to the international community generally has increased materially over the last few years. I am convinced that the use of the library facilities contributes much toward providing a solid basis for progress and constructive growth in international affairs. A good library should always be at the center of any sound international development. Those who are responsible for the formulation of policy, whether they be delegates, staff members or scholars, must always begin in the development of their ideas with a sound knowledge of a problem, which can only be secured through study and research. We have built up a specialized library of which we can be proud and it is our hope that it can be housed in a building which will provide convenient and adequate space for those who make use of its resources.

In addition, the General Assembly, at its recent session, passed a resolution asking me to devote my best efforts in the direction of providing new facilities for the International School, which is presently located in temporary quarters at Parkway Village in Queen's. The School, which is planned for an eventual enrollment of 600 pupils, operates today in accordance with the highest standards and has received praise from many quarters for its excellence of curriculum and instruction. It derives its enrollment from families of the Secretariat, of Delegations and of others in the New York international community. It is our hope to combine these two projects, the

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Library and the International School, in a single architectural unit at the South end of our United Nations premises.

I would welcome an opportunity to talk to you about these projects some time at your convenience. It would be a great contribution to the international community to bring these two projects into actual being within the foreseeable future. In addition, an early meeting would provide an opportunity to exchange ideas with you on world affairs generally, an opportunity which it has not been my privilege to enjoy for much too long a time.

With warm personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjöld,  
Secretary-General