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SPEECH BY TRYGVE LIE, FIRST SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AT DEDICATION OF THE
ABRAHAM FELLER READING ROOM, UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1953 . AT 2:45 P.M.

Mrs. Feller, Mr. Secretary-General, and old friends:

This is an occasion which brings back many memories of a long and close association with a man whose warm heart, clear judgment and positive spirit were given in full measure to a great cause. Abraham Feller was one of the first men I appointed to the United Nations Secretariat. From that day in London in February 1946 until his death, he was at my side as one of my closest and wisest counselors.

In the development of the Secretariat, and of the United Nations as a whole, his influence extended well beyond the usual meaning of the official positions that he held -- important as these were -- General Counsel of the United Nations and Director of the Legal Department.

It is only necessary to think back over the history of those first seven years. In the months since I left the United Nations, I have been going over this history, chapter by chapter, as a part of the preparation of my personal memoirs. I have found in connection with each great problem and issue as it came along -- from the building of an international civil service, to Iran, Palestine, Indonesia, Korea, the questions of disarmament and collective security, and many more -- that Abe Feller was in the middle of it all, in the very center, putting his keen and fast-working mind, his broad experience and his quick energy to work on practical solutions that would advance the United Nations along the road to its objectives.

I think it is this combination of sound, practical judgment and deep idealism that made Abraham Feller's contribution to the United Nations so constructive and of such lasting significance. He was calm and judicious in his advice, always sensitive to the limits of the presently attainable but never deviating from the ultimate goal of world community to which he had dedicated his life.

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In the book he left us as his testament, he wrote: "Such an inquiry cannot answer with any assurance the question as to whether the United Nations is certain to bring us peace and plenty. In the increasing gloom of these years few extravagant expectations have survived, and the majority of mankind would perhaps be relatively content with only a little hope that the world could be made only a little better."

But he also wrote the words that are inscribed on the bronze plaque at the entrance to this Reading Room: "The Charter bears the seeds of a greater growth, which if nourished by governments and peoples, can be made to give forth the fruit of deliverance from our age-long perils."

And he dedicated his book to his daughter "Caroline and her generation".

So we have come to dedicate this room not only to the memory of Abraham Feller as our dear friend and as a very able public servant whom we desire to honor.

We have come to dedicate this room as a symbol of the faith we always shared with him that mankind has the capacity to meet the challenge of our times and to move forward, however painfully and slowly, toward that world community for which he worked so wisely and so well.

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