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VERBATIM TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

TRYGVE LIE ON 21 DECEMBER 1950

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: This is not an ordinary press conference. I expressed the wish yesterday to the Department of Public Information that, before officially leaving Lake Success, I would like to see all the press and radio people. As you know, during sessions of the General Assembly I have the rule not to hold press conferences. That is a rule which I have kept for five years. During the sessions of the Assembly I leave the floor to the delegations and to the President of the Assembly. I always regard the General Assembly as a place where the representatives of the people have the right to express their opinions and to give information to the press. The General Assembly is still in session, but in such an unusual way that I thought I would see you.

First, I should like to thank you for the good coverage you have given to this session of the Assembly up to this point, and to thank you for the support you have given to the United Nations during the past five years. I know that we have good friends and good supporters among you sitting around the table today. I should just like to express a plain simple thanks to you all.

I do not think that today I can give any evaluation of the work of the General Assembly. To do so would not be just and fair, because the General Assembly is still seized of three or four questions, the First Committee has not finished its work, and there are other committees still functioning. I have in mind the seven-man Committee on the question of Chinese membership in the United Nations, the Chairman of which is Sir Benegal Rau, and the cease-fire Committee, made up of Sir Benegal Rau, Mr. Pearson, and the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Entezam. It is premature to give an evaluation of the work of the Assembly before the session is all over.

However, may I just say that in the technical matters, in the daily work of the Committees, in matters regarding documents and meetings, this session has been an example. I do not remember any session where the work went so smoothly. I think this is due to several factors. First, we have an excellent President who, in applying Rule 67 of the Rules of Procedure, shortened the meetings of the

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General Assembly. Then thanks are due to Mr. Cordier and his staff, the seven Secretaries of the Committees, the work of the Assistant-Secretaries General, and our good United Nations Secretariat as a whole; and last but not least Mr. Price's work and leadership in the Fifth Committee. All this helped us in the routine work.

I also wanted to see you today because I have some special duties to take care of, which require that I go to Europe. As you know, in the resolution adopted on 14 December, the General Assembly instructed the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to select the city in Europe most suitable for the sixth regular session of the General Assembly. As experts in United Nations matters, you know that the place to be chosen must be chosen as early as possible in 1951. Therefore, I must go to Geneva, Paris and London to consider the practical situation and see representatives of the governments. I shall not see them about political matters, but only about the place of the next regular session in 1951. I shall be accompanied by Mr. Cordier, Mr. Lall and Mr. Price. In connection with this journey early in January, I shall take a few days off in Norway, and there is a possibility that I shall leave tomorrow, providing the political situation permits me to go. I shall stay there with my family for Christmas and then during the first days of January, I shall go to Geneva, Paris and London. All this has been arranged with the understanding and agreement of the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Entezam. While I am away, Mr. David Owen will be the Acting Secretary-General.

With respect to Korea, I have only this to say: I hope that the Cease-Fire Committee will succeed in its efforts.

The whole purpose of the United Nations in Korea, now, as always, has been to repel the aggression on the Republic of Korea, to re-establish peace and security and to help the Korean people create a free, united, independent and democratic State of their own choosing. Whatever happens, we must keep on trying to achieve these results.

I have great confidence in the Cease-Fire Committee, which consists of three of the best and finest persons I have met in the United Nations: an experienced Foreign Minister; one of the finest diplomats and a lawyer; and a judge of the highest esteem whose reputation is so very good. I really wish them success, and if they do not succeed, it will not be their fault.

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As regards the Headquarters, starting the first week in January the official Headquarters of the United Nations will be in the new Secretariat building in Manhattan.

My own office and almost all the remaining members of the Secretariat will move to 42nd Street over New Year's. We shall retain the conference area at Lake Success for a few months only for meetings.

You will recall that the United Nations will have its own post office, and the address will simply be "United Nations, New York" to emphasize the international character of the Headquarters district.

I hope that the news agencies and newspapers will start using that dateline on their United Nations dispatches with the first of the year.

I have some information in connection with two important committees which were established by this session of the General Assembly. The Secretariat started immediately to send out all the resolutions to the governments. That is now done automatically.

I have selected an internal committee in the Secretariat to prepare for the implementation of the resolution on Uniting for Peace. The members of that committee are Colonel Katzin, Chairman; Mr. Feller, and Mr. Protitch. The Secretariat staff will be representative of the Secretary-General. Colonel Katzin's special assistant will be Mr. Mark Priceman.

Secretary of the Collective Measures Committee will be Mr. Henri Vigier, assisted by Mr. Brian Urquhart. Secretary of the Peace Observation Commission will be Mr. Protitch, and Deputy Secretary will be one of your old colleagues, Mr. Geor Barnes. The Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of Security Council Affairs will be participating in the Peace Observation Commission.

I have some names which have not been published till now regarding the representation in these Committees. As regard the Collective Measures Committee, Canada has appointed Mr. R. G. Riddell; Egypt, Mahmoud Fawzi Bey; Mexico, Mr. Luis Padilla Nervo; and Yugoslavia, Mr. Ales Bebler.

As regards the Peace Observation Commission, I have been informed of the following four names: India, Sir Benegal Rau; Israel, Mr. Abba Eban; United Kingdom, Sir Gladwyn Jebb; and the United States, Mr. Ernest Gross.

I am now ready for your questions.

QUESTION: In connection with your statement on Korea, you said that whatever happens we must keep on trying. Do you want to elaborate on that in any way? There is an apparent indication that United Nations forces may eventually have to leave Korea.

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: I shall not say anything more than what I said in my short statement. As long as this question is in the hands of the Cease-Fire Committee, I think all matters related to it should be placed before the Committee. I have no authority to elaborate on the situation or on the future situation.

QUESTION: Does the United Nations intend at this time to put out the text of the ^{second} communication to Mr. Chou En-lai?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: That is not our property; it is the property of the Committee.

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