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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM
IN THE AGENDA OF THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM
PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
IN 1955

Letter dated 10 December 1954 addressed to the President of the
General Assembly by the Secretary-General

New York, 10 December 1954

I have the honour to request you to include in the agenda of the ninth regular session of the General Assembly the following additional item:

"Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955."

I attach copies of an explanatory memorandum on this subject together with two annexes containing documents relevant to the consideration of the question by the General Assembly.

(Signed) Dag HAMMARSKJOLD
Secretary-General

COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1955

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Secretariat has received numerous indications of public interest regarding the plans of the United Nations for a suitable commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 and of the Charter's coming into force on 24 October 1945. As regards the latter date, the General Assembly decided, at its second regular session in 1947 (resolution 168 (II)), that 24 October should be observed as United Nations Day, and in view of the increasing interest and widening participation in successive observances of United Nations Day throughout the world, it may be anticipated that the observance of United Nations Day in the tenth year of the Organization will meet with still greater success in promoting wider public interest in the purposes and the work of the United Nations.
2. Indeed it is quite probable that, in addition to the above two dates, public-spirited citizens in various countries will tend to focus attention on the role of the United Nations in world affairs on appropriate occasions throughout its tenth anniversary year and in connexion with meaningful dates as regards their own country's participation in the work of the United Nations.
3. The Secretary-General feels that all such commemorative efforts deserve encouragement by the Governments of Member States from the point of view of public understanding of international issues and of popular support for efforts to strengthen international co-operation in all fields of human endeavour.
4. The Secretary-General believes that the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 offers an opportunity for special observance by the United Nations as a whole, which merits the sympathetic consideration of the General Assembly.
5. It will be recalled that, during the closing days of the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco in 1945, the officials of that city extended an invitation to the United Nations to return to San Francisco for a fitting commemoration of its tenth anniversary in 1955. The Secretary-General is in receipt of a communication from Mayor Elmer E. Robinson of San Francisco referring to resolutions passed by the Board of Supervisors, inviting the United Nations to that City for a fitting commemoration

of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter in meetings of approximately two weeks' duration culminating on Charter Day, 26 June.

6. The general satisfaction of all delegations with the arrangements and warm hospitality provided by the City in 1945, and the continuing interest over the decade of the citizens of San Francisco and the area in the United Nations, provide a basis for the current invitation of San Francisco to the United Nations.

7. The provisional plan, as suggested by City officials and civic leaders and discussed with the Secretary-General and his representatives, would provide for meetings and appropriate cultural events covering the period from 13 to 26 June. The commemoration would centre around the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in world affairs during the past decade and in the future. The programme would be divided into two major parts, the first covering the period from 13 to 22 June inclusive and consisting of well planned programmes in which delegates, as well as distinguished scholars, public figures and senior members of the Secretariat would participate. The events would consist of seminars, panel discussions and large public meetings. The general approach in the treatment of subject matter would be functional, consisting of an analysis of world problems and future trends and of the role of the organized international community in this context. An effort would be made to avoid emphasis on either organizational structure or on the cataloguing of organizational activities.

8. The second period - from 23 to 26 June - in contrast to the first phase, would be official in character and would be conducted in the form of meetings participated in by Members of the General Assembly. These meetings would be devoted to a general debate in which the representatives, including Foreign Ministers, would interpret the policies of their Governments on world affairs in relation to the past, present and possible future role of the United Nations in the various aspects of its work.

9. Civic leaders plan to print a commemorative volume consisting of speeches and proceedings of the meetings in the conviction that the entire programme will command the participation of people of high rank and competence in their fields.

10. The Secretary-General shares the belief of the City officials that the meetings could be so arranged as to have an appreciable effect, through the media of public information, upon world public opinion in relation to the United Nations.

11. As for material arrangements and costs, the City of San Francisco, through its Board of Supervisors, has allocated \$150,000 to the commemoration meetings,

which will cover the costs of the renovation of buildings, the installation of necessary equipment, local hospitality and transportation, cultural events and exhibits and travel expenses of special guests.

12. In reaching a decision with regard to the invitation, the General Assembly will wish to have before it recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee regarding costs which the United Nations might be expected to bear.

13. While this special meeting of the Assembly is sui generis, the United Nations has an interest in assuring its success if it is undertaken. The Secretary-General considers that it would be appropriate for the Assembly to authorize payment of the travel expenses of at least one representative from each Member State. The presence of members of the Secretariat would be required for participation in the first phase of the programme and for limited servicing of the meetings.

14. Attached in annex I is the text of the letter dated 7 December 1954 from the Mayor of San Francisco, transmitted through the United States Representative to the United Nations, extending a formal invitation to the United Nations to hold in San Francisco a fitting commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. Annex II contains the text of a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly in connexion with this item.

ANNEX I

LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1954 FROM THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESSED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS

(TRANSMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS)

The City of San Francisco, birthplace of the United Nations, considering that it is appropriate to hold a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in San Francisco during the year 1955, which marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, does hereby formally extend to said United Nations a cordial invitation to hold in San Francisco a fitting commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter, for a period of approximately two weeks, culminating on 26 June 1955.

The invitation hereby extended is forwarded by me pursuant to resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, duly adopted on 6 December 1954.

(Signed) Elmer E. ROBINSON

ANNEX II

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco and that it came into force on 24 October 1945,

Considering that both the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter and the tenth anniversary of its coming into force on the date which the General Assembly has designated as United Nations Day provide fitting occasions to promote greater understanding of the purposes and of the work of the United Nations,

1. Calls upon the Governments of all Member States and invites the Governments of non-Member States to give all appropriate support to programmes in their own countries designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations in 1955 by furthering public discussion of the role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in world affairs;

2. Invites the specialized agencies of the United Nations to participate in the world-wide observances of the tenth anniversary in 1955 and to co-ordinate their plans with those of the United Nations;

3. Invites the non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the United Nations and all others whose objectives include support for the United Nations to lend their assistance in these observances;

4. Accepts the invitation of the City of San Francisco and thanks the officials and the people of that City for their hospitality;

5. Decides to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter in the City of San Francisco by holding a series of meetings for approximately two weeks, culminating in a four-day commemorative meeting of Members of the General Assembly from 23 to 26 June 1955;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to develop the programme of the above commemorative meetings in consultation with the civic authorities of the City of San Francisco; and, to this end,

7. Authorizes the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement with the City of San Francisco on the allocation of costs relating to the holding of these meetings;

8. Authorizes the payment of the travel expenses of one representative of each Member from the permanent duty station, whether at Headquarters, the capital city or elsewhere, to San Francisco and return;

9. Authorizes the payment of travel and subsistence expenses of such members of the Secretariat and the payment of such other expenses as the Secretary-General may deem necessary.
