

**Secretariat**

13005

ST/IC/86/4
14 January 1986

INFORMATION CIRCULAR**To: Members of the staff****From: The Under Secretary-General for Administration and Management****Subject: OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF UNITED NATIONS STAFF MEMBERS
IN THE UNITED STATES**

1. Information circular ST/IC/85/48 of 12 September 1985 informed all staff members of the exchange of notes between the Acting Permanent Representative of the United States and the Secretary-General resulting from the expressed intention of the United States Government to implement regulations for travel outside a 25-mile radius of Columbus Circle, New York City. Subsequent to that exchange of notes, the Secretary-General, on 17 September 1985, again urged the United States to reconsider its position on the issue. By a further note verbale of 13 December 1985, the United States informed the Secretary-General of further travel regulations. In a note verbale of 14 December 1985, the Secretary-General informed the United States that his position remained unchanged and applied fully also to the newly imposed travel regulations. The contents of this exchange of notes were set out in information circular ST/IC/85/74 of 17 December 1985. In the various discussions held by the representatives of the United Nations and the United States on the subject of these restrictions, each side has maintained its position.
2. In the course of the aforementioned discussion, in so far as they related to official travel, the United Nations made it clear that such travel is the sole responsibility of the Organization, that arrangements for official travel must continue to be made by the United Nations in the usual way and that the Secretariat could not furnish data on such travel on a selective basis. The United States, while eventually accepting the United Nations insistence on these points, for its part insisted that it should be notified regarding official travel by staff members of the affected nationalities in the United States.
3. In the light of the situation thus created by the host country and in order to permit the normal functioning of the Organization within the United States and to obviate the effects of discrimination among staff members, the United Nations has

undertaken, as a practical measure, to notify the host country of all official travel in the United States. In so doing, the United Nations has made it clear that it is acting on the basis of the specific obligations of both the host country and the United Nations for the protection of officials of the Organization both at Headquarters and while on official travel in the United States. In this connection reference is made, in particular, to General Assembly resolutions 39/83 of 13 December 1984 and 40/73 of 11 December 1985, in which the General Assembly has inter alia emphasized the duty of States to take all appropriate steps as required by international law to prevent any attacks on international and intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations. Reference is also made to the legislation of the host State, in particular to the Act for the Protection of Foreign Officials and Official Guests of the United States (Public Law 92-539 of 24 October 1972) and the Act for the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons (Public Law 94-467 of 8 October 1976).

4. Consequently, as of 15 January 1986, the Transportation Section, Office of General Services, will make arrangements to notify the United States Mission to the United Nations of official travel of all United Nations staff members in the territory of the United States, regardless of nationality. The notification will include the itinerary and addresses while travelling of the staff member concerned; this information, to the extent possible, is to be included in the travel authorization (P.T.8). Any significant changes in approved travel arrangements either prior to or during travel should, in the usual way, be reported to the Secretariat unit to which the staff member is attached.

5. In the event that travel arrangements are made by the individual staff member, the relevant information should be furnished by the staff member concerned to the Transportation Section, Office of General Services, for inclusion in the travel authorization (P.T.8) prior to the commencement of travel.
