



Secretariat

ST/SGB/212
24 September 1985

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BULLETIN

To: Members of the staff

Subject: USE OF WORKING LANGUAGES OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. The purpose of this bulletin is to emphasize once more the importance I attach to ensuring a linguistic balance among staff members of the Secretariat and to reiterate the policy of the Secretariat regarding the use of its working languages.
2. I set out this policy in my bulletin ST/SGB/201, the text of which is annexed.
3. This policy, although well established, is not fully put into practice. I wish therefore to reaffirm it and to encourage those staff members throughout the Secretariat whose principal language is French, or who prefer to work in that language, to use French in all official communications.

Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

Annex

1. I should like to remind you of the official policy of the Secretariat regarding the use of its working languages, which is as follows.
2. By virtue of his or her appointment, every staff member is required to work in either English or French, which are the working languages of the Secretariat, as defined in General Assembly resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946.
3. In addition, since the regional commissions for Europe, Latin America and Western Asia also have Russian, Spanish and Arabic, respectively, as a working language, individual staff members in the secretariats of these commissions are required to work in the respective language.
4. It has been the long-standing policy of the Organization to encourage all staff members to become proficient in more than one official language. I wish to emphasize the importance that I attach to this objective and to the respect for the equal status of the working languages.
5. To this end, within the Secretariat as a whole, each staff member should be free to use in his written communications either English or French, at his or her option. No impediment is to be placed by anyone to this policy, which is to be extended within the regional commissions referred to in paragraph 3 above to the use of the respective additional working language.
