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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BULLETIN

To: Members of the staff

Subject: ACCESS TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS ARCHIVES

With effect from the date of issuance of this bulletin, access to the archives of the League of Nations at the United Nations Office in Geneva will be governed by the following rules.

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Secretary-General

RULES GOVERNING ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

- General conditions of access
1. The archives of the League of Nations, with the exception of the categories of material defined in paragraph 3 below, shall be open for consultation in situ from the beginning of the calendar year following the date on which the most recent item in the file concerned has attained forty years..
- Exemptions
2. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva may grant exemptions from the rule stated in paragraph 1 in favour of researchers proving a legitimate interest in material of more recent date. The Director-General may, however, refuse applicants access to documents which are unmistakably still of a confidential or secret nature. The beneficiary may be required to undertake to submit the manuscript of his work to the Director-General before publication.

Continued
general
inaccessi-
bility of:

Documents of
States

Documents which
might endanger
individuals

Personal files

Reproduction and
publication

Copyright

Whole archive
groups

3. The following items shall remain closed for a period of sixty years:

(a) Files containing internal documents of national administrations unofficially communicated at the time to League of Nations officials or commissioners by Governments whose archives are not open to researchers for the dates in question;

(b) Files containing documents which, if divulged, might injure the reputation, affect the privacy or endanger the safety of individuals;

(c) Personal files of officials or agents of the League of Nations.

4. The copying, reproduction and publication of documents to which access is given shall be subject to the following principles:

(a) Researchers shall be warned that the United Nations is not in a position to release them from any obligations in respect of copyright held by persons whose works may be found in the archives;

(b) The reproduction or publication of large bodies of files (whole archive groups or large series therein) shall not be permitted;

(c) The United Nations services shall not be obliged to carry out the actual work of reproduction, even against payment.

5. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva shall be responsible for the implementation of this decision, particularly with regard to the determination of reserved files, the practical methods of providing access and the granting of the exemption for which provision is made in paragraph 2. He shall report annually to the Secretary-General on the operation of these rules, and shall report on each occasion when important exemptions are granted pursuant to paragraph 2.
