



## SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

The notes in this section are intended to suggest some of the current activities of the United Nations and its related agencies which are of major importance and which illustrate also the wide range of the work of the United Nations in the world today. Each of these topics is especially suitable for study programmes as on each there is a considerable range of useful information material available, such as leaflets, booklets, articles in official journals (especially the *United Nations Monthly Chronicle* and the *UNESCO Courier*), and in some cases also there are films and filmstrips. For information, consult your local library or write to the nearest United Nations Information Centre.

- 1. On December 19, 1961, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution designating the 1960s as "the United Nations Development Decade", which calls upon all member nations to unite in a sustained effort to break through the cycle of poverty, hunger and disease and to achieve for the "less-developed" two-thirds of the world new levels of economic and social well-being. The decade has a definite goal: to achieve a minimum annual rate of growth of five per cent of national income in the less developed countries before 1970. The Development Decade would provide a particularly effective frame of reference for reviewing the broad sweep of the non-political work of the United Nations family aimed at reaching new world levels of economic and social well-being.
- 2. A major contribution of the United Nations in 1964 toward the realization of this goal was the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva from March 23 to June 15, 1964, with some 1,500 delegates from countries throughout the world in attendance. As stated in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 18 July 1963 which recommended that it be held, the Conference was based on the premise "that economic and social progress throughout the world depends in a large measure on an expansion in international trade, and on an increasing participation of the developing countries in it."
- 3. Another very important meeting was convened early in the Development Decade to determine how new techniques could best be applied to economic development and what scientific research had to be undertaken to solve the problems of the developing countries. This was the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology, at which scientists from 96 countries came together in Geneva in February 1963 to

present over 1,800 scientific papers. The subjects discussed fell into three broad categories: natural resources, human resources and international planning to develop both. A series of popular booklets suitable for teachers, upper-secondary school students and colleges and universities is being issued in eight volumes on the results of the Conference under the title Science and Technology for Development.

- 4. In 1960 the Food and Agriculture Organization, in conjunction with the United Nations and other specialized agencies, launched the international Freedom from Hunger Campaign, in order to create a universal awareness of the problems of hunger and malnutrition and stimulate the fight against them. National Committees are now active in 65 countries in this effort and the Campaign, which was originally scheduled to run for five years, has been prolonged for an indefinite period. FAO and the United Nations have also set up a joint World Food Programme, to which nations have contributed almost one hundred million dollars in surplus food, money and services. The main purpose of this programme is to use food as a means of economic development by providing wages for workers on projects such as digging irrigation canals or planting trees to control soil erosion. A certain amount of food has also been set aside to take care of the victims of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods.
- 5. Two highly successful United Nations Conferences were held, in 1955 and in 1958, on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and a third such gathering will be held in Geneva, from August 31 to September 9, 1964 (Press Releases covering the activities of the third Conference will be available from the United Nations Information Centres).
- 6. In 1963 the General Assembly adopted unanimously the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In so doing, it reaffirmed the principles contained in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights. Noting that "discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin in certain areas of the world continues none the less to give cause for serious concern", it affirmed the necessity of speedily eliminating such discrimination, in any form, throughout the world and of adopting national and international measures to that end. Schools and communities might wish to focus attention on this special subject for Human Rights Day, which is observed each year on December 10.

## NOTES ON PLANNING UNITED NATIONS DAY OBSERVANCES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

UNITED NATIONS DAY is the one anniversary which is shared by all peoples of all nations. The forms which these observances take vary from country to country, but common to all of them is the rededication of the peoples of the world to the purposes of the United Nations: peace and a better world through international co-operation.

School observances of United Nations Day, or United Nations Week, are most meaningful when they form part of a sustained programme of study of the aims and work of the United Nations and its related agencies. The paragraphs below list some of the suggestions contained in reports sent to the United Nations from many countries. Teachers and other community leaders might find some of these suggestions helpful in planning programmes adapted to the needs and interests of their own localities.

- 1. Study programmes in some countries present the aims and work of the United Nations family of organizations through lessons introduced into various subjects in the regular school curriculum, such as history, geography, social studies, science, health and hygiene, civics and current events. Many schools find it especially interesting to make a special study of United Nations activities in a particular country, or in a region (such as Africa or Latin America), or the role of one's own country in United Nations affairs.
- 2. Another approach is for a school class or community group to study in depth one or more subjects of major importance, such as disarmament or human rights. Some of the current activities of the United Nations and its related agencies which would be especially suitable for such study programmes are outlined briefly on the lower half of this page.
- 3. Some schools arrange an essay, poster or public speaking contest on a United Nations subject. Prizes usually are awarded (sometimes donated by a community group) and the work and prizes presented on UN Day.
- 4. Many schools prepare attractive displays of posters, photographs, magazine articles and newspaper clippings on United Nations subjects. Exhibits of stamps issued by the United Nations are often held, with short talks by pupils on the subject or special event pictured on the various stamps.
- 5. The UNESCO Gift Coupon Scheme enables schools or community groups to "adopt" a particular school or educational project from a list drawn up by UNESCO. Details can be secured from the National Commis-

sion for UNESCO in your country or from UNESCO Headquarters, Paris 7, France.

- 6. Many schools study the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and contribute to its programme through the sale of UNICEF greeting cards or other fund-raising activities.
- 7. In primary schools, some of the following activities might be undertaken:
- -Drawing flags and maps of United Nations Member countries,
- -Planting a "United Nations Tree", with appropriate ceremonies; it would also be appropriate to dedicate a tree already growing as the "United Nations tree",
- Learning songs from other countries and songs about children in other lands.
- —Seeing and discussing a filmstrip on the United Nations made especially for children, such as "A Garden We Planted Together" or "Three Promises to You". Both filmstrips are available in English, French and Spanish versions,
- —Making a display of everyday things from four or five United Nations Member Countries in different parts of the world—pictures of homes, transport, schools, toys, dolls, etc.
- 8. Some school and community organizations make a special project of assembling up-to-date books, pamphlets and other materials on the United Nations and its related agencies and presenting the collection to a local school or public library on United Nations Day.
- 9. The climax of the observances in many communities is a school or civic assembly programme held on United Nations Day. Its special feature might be: a play, pageant, or festival of songs and dances; a new United Nations film; a model session of the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council or other organ; or a speech by an outstanding personality with knowledge of the United Nations.
- 10. Information concerning available study materials, including booklets, films and other teaching aids can be obtained from the nearest United Nations Information Centre or from local or national UN Day Committees.



## UNITED NATIONS DAY 24 October 1964

## The Secretary-General's Message for Youth

ALL PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, whatever their way and conditions of life, their colour or their beliefs, have their legends—varied in form, but similar in substance—about the struggle of good with evil. Such legends are usually imbued with dreams of a golden age and with sublime ideals. There can be few of us who do not still remember legends and tales of this kind which we heard or read in our childhood or youth, and who did not dream of becoming magicians and bringing happiness to men.

But real life has always been harsher than these dreams. The world has suffered natural scourges alternating with bloody wars; men have been plagued with diseases, and many have gone hungry or suffered other privations. Only recently the world was convulsed by the Second World War, a war whose horrors are still fresh in our memory.

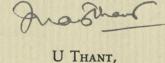
Are men doomed to go on being the victims of such scourges? Must we resign ourselves to believing that, as things have been, so they will be? No, certainly not!

Man's reason has always prevailed in the end. Reason has taught man to create, and raised him to the highest level of development. Man has learned to master nature, to create

priceless material and spiritual riches, and to lay the foundations for all to enjoy unprecedented material well-being. And reason must lead man to renounce war and to put an end for all time to violence and injustice in the world.

Nineteen years ago, after the most bloody and destructive war in history had come to an end, the United Nations was founded for these very purposes. To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions for universal justice and to provide decent conditions of life for all peoples—these were the lofty purposes laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. They are not the dreams of an idealist nor the fantasies of legend, but fully realistic even if difficult tasks. The present generation must clearly understand all these aims and actively prepare itself to strive for the realization of these goals, and for the future happiness of today's youth.

That is why I appeal to all young people, on this United Nations Day, to dedicate themselves to the sublime cause of giving reality to the ideals of the Charter; I appeal to them to work for the triumph of peace and friendship on earth and for the happiness of mankind.



Secretary-General