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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL
LEAVES TO SEEK FUNDS FOR NEW INSTITUTE

Peter Casson will leave New York tonight to begin a series of visits to more than 25 countries as the Secretary-General's personal representative for the purpose of seeking financial support for the proposed United Nations Training and Research Institute.

The General Assembly has suggested that the Institute might be established in the first half of 1964, if sufficient financial support can be secured.* According to the Secretary-General, firm pledges of not less than \$5 million will be needed before operations can begin.

Mr. Casson's appointment as personal representative to seek financial support was announced by the Secretary-General on 6 December 1963.** A British national, Mr. Casson has been temporarily seconded from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), where he holds the posts of Special Representative of the Commissioner-General, and Director for Programme Support.

The purpose of the proposed Institute will be to train personnel, particularly from developing countries, for national service and for service with the United Nations and the specialized agencies; and to study the operations of the United Nations family. It is envisaged that its headquarters will be in New York although much of the training will probably be given in Geneva and other regional centres of the United Nations.

(more)

* Resolution 1934 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963.

** See Press Release SG/1628-EC/2257.e

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The Secretary-General and Mr. Casson met today before Mr. Casson's departure for Washington, the first of about 31 national capitals and major cities he will visit in the next few months. As personal representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Casson will seek financial support from Governments, foundations and other possible sources of funds.

Among the countries he intends to visit are Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria, Italy, Libya, United Arab Republic, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Burma, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, as well as the United States.

In a letter sent to Governments the Secretary-General expresses the hope that the planned Institute will play a key role in the work of the United Nations in coming years, but observes that its establishment "depends entirely on the provision of voluntary contributions, both governmental and private". He recalls that resources of \$10 million should be envisaged to finance the Institute over a five-to-six year period.

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Note: A photograph of Mr. Casson is available at the United Nations Photo Library, Room 989.