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SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS AMBASSADOR HERBERT DE RIBBING
AS HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMBODIA, THAILAND

In consultation with the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand, the Secretary-General, U Thant, has designated Ambassador Herbert de Ribbing as his Special Representative in the area. Ambassador de Ribbing will examine with the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand the situation prevailing between them, endeavour to find ways and means of reducing tension in the area and explore the possibilities of resolving whatever problems may exist between them.

The duration of the assignment of the Secretary-General's Special Representative will be initially for six months. He will be expected to move from one country to the other as necessary.

Ambassador de Ribbing is expected to arrive in New York later this week and to proceed to the area, after discussions in New York with the Secretary-General and with the Permanent Representative of Cambodia and the Chargé d'affaires of Thailand.

Ambassador de Ribbing was born in Eksjö, Sweden, on 8 July 1897. He received a degree in Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics in 1918, and a degree in Law at Uppsala University in 1921.

He entered the Swedish Foreign Service in 1922, having served at the Swedish Embassies in Paris, London and Helsinki from 1923 to 1929. He also served at the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm in 1924 and 1929 and was appointed Head of Department in the Economic Division of the Ministry in 1934.

He was appointed Counsellor to the Swedish Embassies in Paris in 1938, and in Washington in 1942. In October 1943, he became Ambassador extraordinary to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. He was appointed Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in April 1949 and Ambassador to Madrid in February 1958.

(more)

While he was serving as Swedish Ambassador to Spain, Mr. de Ribbing was appointed Personal Representative of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in August 1960 in order to consider the position of refugees from the Buraimi Oasis. The so-called "Buraimi Question" involved the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. Mr. de Ribbing continued to be the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, U Thant, on this question. In May 1963, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. de Ribbing as his Special Representative in connexion with the question of Oman.

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