



Secretariat

ST/IC/1996/54  
9 September 1996

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: STAFF DAY 1996

Introduction

1. The observance of Staff Day on Friday, 13 September 1996, is an official function sponsored jointly by the Secretary-General and the Staff Union. It is intended to give staff members an opportunity not only to relax and enjoy themselves, but also to reaffirm the esteem we hold for one another and the work we perform. Staff Day is not intended to be a "day off". It will be a success if staff members participate together in the events that have been planned, and it is hoped that staff members at all levels will join in the spirit of this endeavour. The Secretary-General and the President of the Staff Union will address the staff and there will be a ceremony to honour staff members with long service to the United Nations.

Participation in Staff Day activities

2. Supervisors are expected to release their staff to participate in the Day's activities, to the extent possible, and to participate themselves. In offices where the exigencies of service require some staff members to be on duty at all times, supervisors are asked to exercise flexibility and devise equitable arrangements to allow the greatest staff participation possible. To the extent feasible, with no impairment to the provision of essential services, staff members who do not work conventional shifts should be able to participate in events scheduled during regular working hours without being expected to complete their normal assignments as well.

3. The Staff Day activities this year will have an entirely different focus. This year's theme is "Participation not observation" and, with the exception of a few professional artists who are donating their time to appear, the great

majority of performers are all members of the staff. The Staff Day Committee has endeavoured to make this year a true celebration of the international civil service by showcasing the many talents of the staff on board.

Schedule of activities during the Day

4. The following is a general schedule of events. A complete programme giving details will be issued by the Staff Union:

(a) UN50 Literary Contest Awards will be presented at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber;

(b) An international food bazaar sponsored by the Aux Antilles Club will take place in the south Secretariat Lobby from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

(c) The parade of nations will take place in the General Assembly Public Lobby from 11 to 12 noon;

(d) A staff entertainment showcase will take place in the General Assembly Public Lobby from 12 noon to 2 p.m., featuring folk and cultural dances by the Ballroom Dance Club, the Colombian Cultural Society, the Philippines Cultural Society and the Portuguese Language Club; demonstrations will be given by Hapkido/Tae-Kwondo, the Music Appreciation Club, Qigong/Kung Fu and Tai Chi, and solo musical performances by Evelyn Hadad and Jean Baba. Master of Comedy and Impressions, Matt Sullivan, will be master of ceremonies;

(e) Three tournaments, sponsored by the Bridge, Chess and Domino Clubs, will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

(f) At 1 p.m, the Jazz Society's workshop band and internationally acclaimed jazz artist Roy Hargrove will perform. Immediately following the jazz festival, two 16 mm colour films directed by Mansour Faridi will be screened. The first, entitled "Pick a Club", depicts United Nations Staff Recreation Council activities, and the second is an award-winning film entitled "Wedding in a Persian Village";

(g) The memorial ceremony honouring staff who have lost their lives in United Nations service will take place at 2 p.m. in the Secretariat Circle. The United Nations Security Honour Guard will join the East Ramapo Band and Colour Guard and the New York City Firemen's Bagpipe Band;

(h) The Secretary-General and the President of the Staff Committee will address the staff at 4 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. Immediately following the statements, awards will be presented by the Secretary-General to those staff having long service with the United Nations.

5. Various activities will also be provided by the Amateur Radio Club and the Hellenic Kyklos Club. There will be exhibits in the south Secretariat Lobby by the Russian Book Club, the Colombian Cultural Society, the Myanmar Cultural Society and staff member, D. John Jeffrey.

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6. Admission to all the above events will be on a first-come, first-served basis upon presentation of a valid United Nations grounds pass. Staff members are asked to arrive at events 15 minutes before the scheduled starting times. Retired staff members are invited to participate.

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