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Press Release HQ/224
31 August 1966

ALTERATIONS IN SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBER COMPLETED

Delegations Seats Increased from 137 to 235

The work on alterations of the Security Council Chamber, to provide more seats for delegations, has been completed at United Nations Headquarters.

The increase in membership of the Council from 11 to 15, which took effect on 1 January 1966, and the growth in membership of the United Nations, made it necessary to accommodate more delegates at the Council's horseshoe-shaped table and in the Chamber as a whole.

Two additional table positions have been added, one at each end of the Council table, for the use of participants invited by the Council to take part in its proceedings. As a result, a total of four such participants may be seated. If there should be more than four invited participants at one time, it is planned for them to take their places by rotation.

The alterations were authorized by the General Assembly last year. Last December, the Secretary-General recommended an increase in delegation seating arrangements to alleviate the over-crowding on the floor of the Council Chamber (See the Secretary-General's report (document AC.5/1047) to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)).

The delegate's area has been extended into the section formerly used as the Press gallery. This change has increased the number of delegates' seats in the floor area from 137 to 235. These will be used by representatives of non-members of the Council who wish to attend meetings.

The Press gallery has been moved into the balcony area, and the number of seats for correspondents has been increased from 110 to 118. The number of balcony seats for the public has been reduced from 402 to 232.

(more)

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The enlarged main table can accommodate 21 persons -- the 15 members of the Council, the Secretary-General, one Under-Secretary and four invited participants.

In carrying out the alterations, care has been taken not to disrupt the traditional appearance of the Council Chamber.

Work on the changes was begun late in June. Since then, the Security Council has been meeting in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

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Note: Photographs of the Security Council Chamber are available from the Photo Distribution Section, Room 989.

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