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TURKEY GIVES PEACE TREATY REPLICA TO UNITED NATIONS

FOR DISPLAY AT HEADQUARTERS

The Government of Turkey this morning presented the United Nations with a replica of the Kadesh Peace Treaty, the earliest peace treaty whose text is known to have survived. It was signed in 1269 B.C. between the King of the Hittites, Hattusilis III, and the Pharaoh of Egypt, Rameses II.

The replica was presented to the Secretary-General, U Thant, by Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, in a brief ceremony which took place this morning on the second floor of the Conference building, in the delegates' corridor outside the north entrance to the Security Council Chamber. The replica will remain on display there.

The ceremony was attended by the heads of several delegations and by senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

Welcoming the "superb gift", U Thant said that the peace treaty between the Egyptians and the Hittites, the two major Powers of that day, "should help us to accept the fact that the road to peace is long and arduous. It has been trod by men since the dawn of history".

He stated that the "historic" document deserved a place of honour "in this building, the world centre of contemporary efforts to attain peace". As delegates, officials and visitors gaze upon "this monumental rendering of the little clay tablet" in the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul, he said, they would gain historical perspective on questions which were of paramount concern today.

(See Press Release SG/SM/1337, issued today, for full text of the Secretary-General's statement.)

Presenting the gift, which he described as "simple, but appropriate and significant", Mr. Caglayangil (Turkey) said that the most significant aspect of the treaty was its similarity with the Charter of the United Nations. It

(more)

28

HQ/246
24 September 1970

foresaw, in effect, the establishment of an era of "brotherhood between men" and of "eternal peace". He added that at a time when the United Nations was celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary and turning towards the past in order to make a proper evaluation of its success and failures, the sense of the message of peace was even more significant, placed as it was in front of the Security Council Chamber.

(Further details on the peace treaty and the replica are given in Press Release HQ/245/Rev.1, released yesterday.)

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