

U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL AT PRESENTATION OF GIFT
FROM UNITED STATES TO UNITED NATIONS

Following is the text of a statement made by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at the presentation of a digital electronic clock by the United States to the United Nations at a brief ceremony at Headquarters today:*

It is with great pleasure that I accept this handsome and useful gift made to the United Nations by the Government of the United States of America.

This clock, which at a touch of the finger, shows the time in any of the twenty-four time zones of the world, is a fitting addition to the amenities of the North Lounge in which diplomats from all member nations gather. Frequently, the exact time in various places in the world has a direct bearing upon the deliberations carried on in this house. A digital clock may thus serve as an important tool in the work of the delegates and the supporting staff not only by quickly providing accurate information but also in facilitating the establishment of communications.

This mechanism which has been produced by a combination of the traditional skill of the watchmaker and the application of modern computer technology, blends the old and the new in a harmony of functional design which is a tribute to the engineers and craftsmen who have conceived it. It is thus an example of how the values of the past and the science of today can be synthesized for the betterment of mankind.

Moreover, by complementing the world map which is displayed in this room, this clock will remind us of the inter-relationship of time and distance and the effect that these dimensions have in shaping the events of the world.

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* For details of the gift, see Press Release HQ/258.