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Press Release SG/465
24 February 1956

SECRETARY-GENERAL RETURNS TO UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold arrived at Idlewild Airport at 7:39 p.m. this evening on United Airlines flight No. 700 from San Francisco. His arrival concluded a trip of nearly six weeks, during which he visited 17 member states of the United Nations.

Mr. Hammarskjold told correspondents at the airport that his trip around the world had left him "with a deeper feeling of the difficulties we have to tackle in many countries and at the United Nations, but at the same time with a much stronger sense of the challenge and of the possibilities."

The Secretary-General said that as he was holding a press conference at UN Headquarters on Monday, 27 February, he would not go into details about his impressions. However, he added, there were a few things he would like to say immediately.

"My first and very pleasant duty," he stated, "is, indeed, to send my thanks to the governments and their officials in all the countries I visited, who have done their utmost in the most generous way to make my stay useful and pleasant. The trip has left me with a deeper feeling of the difficulties that we have to tackle in many countries and the UN, but at the same time with a much stronger sense of the challenge and of the possibilities.

"That being so," the Secretary-General continued, "I feel it has helped me in my job not only by widening my knowledge of problems but also by providing a stronger basis for the efforts my colleagues, I myself, and members of all delegations have to make in order to make 1956, and the following years, years of continuous progress in the direction of peace."

In answer to a question, the Secretary-General said he stood by the statement which he had made in Karachi, Pakistan, concerning the situation in the Middle East. In fact, he added, his later experience had confirmed what he had said in Karachi.

Representatives of nine countries which the Secretary-General had visited during his trip were on hand at the airport to meet him tonight. They were: E. Ronald Walker (Australia); A.R. Perry (New Zealand); Rafik Asha (Syria);

(more)

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Abdel Meguid Ramadan (Egypt); Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro (Indonesia); Mordecai R. Kidron (Israel); Djalal Abdoh (Iran); Turgut Menemencioglu (Turkey); and Christian X. Palamas (Greece).

Mr. Hammarskjold left New York on 15 January and in the course of his journey he visited the following countries: United Kingdom, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

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