



Secretariat

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Subject: Films on cellulose nitrate substrate

1. A recent study by a specialist from the Netherlands Audiovisual Archives revealed the presence among the films produced or received by the United Nations in the 1950s-1960s that are now stored in the UNOG Library of a number of reels on a cellulose nitrate substrate.
2. Cellulose nitrate, the usual substrate for 35 mm films made during that period, is a real fire hazard: at certain temperatures, and after a certain number of years, cellulose nitrate-based films may spontaneously ignite. The fires cannot be put out because the materials generate their own oxygen. Films of this kind must be stored in very special conditions.
3. The Library is currently in contact with the Swiss national film library with a view to the conclusion of agreements for the storing of these films - which are of undeniable historical value - in suitable conditions.
4. Anyone knowing of the presence of old films in any UNOG building is requested kindly to inform Ms. Blukacz-Louisfert (Chief, League of Nations Archives Unit, ext. 74189) of their whereabouts.

Maryan Baquerot
Director
Division of Administration



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T.S.V.P.