



Secretariat

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Distribution:

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR No. 37

Subject: First Day of Issue

RALPH BUNCHE

Date of Issue : 7 August 2003

1. On 7 August 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration will issue a set of three stamps to commemorate the centenary of Ralph Bunche.



conduct of the UN's peacekeeping function.

2. Ralph Bunche saw United States leadership and involvement in multilateral international organizations as essential to the goal of peace on earth. From 1946 until his death in 1971, he served the cause of peace as an international civil servant. He had helped create the United Nations at San Francisco in 1945 and had a central role in the adoption of three forward-looking chapters of the Charter of the United Nations that dealt with post-war colonialism. For two decades, as Under-Secretary-General -- the highest post held by an American in the United Nations -- he played a leading role in the conception and



3. He was also the first African American, or person of colour of any origin, to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. He received this international honour in 1950 for his success as United Nations mediator in bringing about the 1949 Rhodes armistices between Israel and its Arab adversaries, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

4. Bunche's pioneering roles in race relations, human rights, decolonization, and international mediation and peacekeeping makes his legacy too important to be ignored.
5. A year-long 100th anniversary, planned by the Ralph Bunche Centenary Commemoration Committee (RBCCC) and coordinated by the Internal Management Group (IMG) and its secretariat located at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies (RBIIS), will run from August 2003 to August 2004 to honour this truly authentic American legend.



6. The horizontal sheets of 20 stamps were printed by Joh. Enschedé Stamps Security Printers B.V. (Netherlands) in the following face values : S.Fr. 1.80, US\$ 0.37 and € 2.10.



7. The three charcoal portraits reproduced on the stamps were designed by Leo Cherne (U.S.A.).

8. On 7 August 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a new Vienna definitive in the denomination of € 0,04.
9. The stamp is a photograph of the Schloss Eggenberg in Graz. The architect in 1625 was Pietro de Pomis, a student of the architect Palladio. The owner of the palace was Prince Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg (1568-1634).



10. Staff members and mission personnel wishing to procure these stamps and first day covers can obtain them from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on 7 August 2003 at the UNPA sales counter at door 6 of the Palais des Nations.
11. Staff members are encouraged to use United Nations stamps on their personal mail. By doing so, these miniature messengers of peace can educate unseen thousands of people to the activities and goals of the United Nations.

(Signed) **Bertrand Juppín de Fondaumiére**
Director, Division of Administration