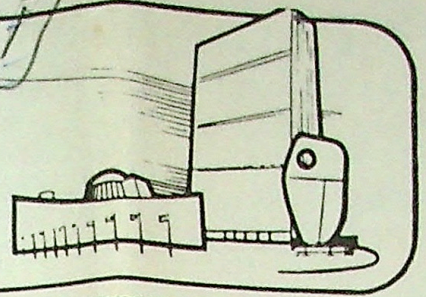


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United Nations Photo

Yasser Arafat emphasizes a point in his dramatic presentation of the Palestine Liberation Organization's position on the Mid-East question. The 90 minute address was given amid the tightest security measures the UN Headquarters has ever enforced.

diplomatic pouch

by Petronius

Waldheim's address at Houston overshadowed in the media by U.S. Ambassador John Scali's proposal for a U.N. medal of honor. The Secretary General rapped U.N. member states and the international organizations -- honorably excluding FAO -- for their failure to perceive the looming food crisis until it overwhelmed much of the world; called again for preventive diplomacy to guard against future crises.

Saudi Arabian Minister of State Omar Sakkhaf's sudden death in New York cast a pall over the Arab group. The second Arab minister to succumb in the past few weeks, following Iraq's Shadel Taqa, felled by a heart attack. Assembly President Abdelaziz Bouteflika devoted an entire meeting to hearing tributes to Sakkhaf, interrupting the Palestine debate, for which the Saudi diplomat came to New York.

New York's finest plus the U.N.'s finest, headed up by Col. Huck Trimble, deserve full honors for a job well done during the brief visit of P.L.O. chief Yasser Arafat. Secret of good security is: tell only those who absolutely must know, pass out as much misleading information as possible to the rest, and throw in a lot of lies for good measure. Arafat's protectors won straight A's in all departments.

That Havana bearhug reminded some of Castro's 1960 greeting for Khrushchev at the U.N. Arafat and the late Soviet leader about the same height. Dwarfed by the burly barbudo.

Western delegates not the only ones annoyed by Bouteflika's decision to bring out the high-backed head of state's chair for Arafat. In the end, the P.L.O. boss declined to use it, except as an arm rest.

Was he armed when he addressed the Assembly? His aides say absolutely not. But who will ever know for sure? Arafat obviously not among those who were frisked that extraordinary day. Despite denials, the legend will linger, joining such U.N. trivia as Khrushchev's shoe-banging, Assembly President Frederick H. Boland's gavel-breaking, and sundry other happenings here that probably did not change the course of history.

Tanzanian Ambassador Salim A. Salim, chairman of the African group for November (Cameroon Ambassador Michel Njine, exhausted from the Security Council marathon, relinquished his turn), credited with masterminding South Africa's ouster from the General Assembly. The South Africans not the only ones caught unprepared by that move. Salim's takeover from the milder Njine should have been the tip-off.

Bouteflika obviously never intended to have his record of militancy marred by a repetition of the Hambro-Benites formula permitting the apartheid republic to carry on in the U.N. as if nothing had happened after the Sept. 30 rejection of its credentials.

The U.N. reported nearing agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization, the international copyright body, on agency status.

Third Committee agreed to give priority at the next Assembly session to the question of protecting correspondents on dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict. Such as New York Nov. 4 and the past days?

UNESCO awarded the John XXIII Peace Prize by the Holy See. The late beloved Pontiff the Vatican's first observer at UNESCO headquarters.

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Precedent May Be Set For Future By GA Vote

South Africa out; the P.L.O. in; the U.N. an armed camp; Israel gagged by majority vote. That Was The Week That Was. Mad days in November, U.N.-style.

The South Africans got their marching orders despite Western protests that General Assembly President Abdelaziz Bouteflika acted illegally and unconstitutionally in ruling that the Sept. 30 vote rejecting the apartheid delegation's credentials obliged him to bar South Africa from all participation in the work of the current 29th session.

Bouteflika, foreign minister of Algeria, who, some said, was at first reluctant to rule on the issue to reverse the decisions of former presidents Edvard Hambro and Leopoldo Benites, appeared perfectly happy to lay it on the line when Tanzanian Ambassador Salim A. Salim, chairman of the African group, formally sought a presidential opinion.

Bouteflika got around Hambro's 1970 opinion that the South Africans could continue to enjoy all the prerogatives of U.N. membership by asserting that

the Norwegian diplomat, "a legal authority to whom I wish to pay a tribute," based himself on the exact words of an Assembly decision made in the form of an amendment.

"That opinion did not mean that if the amendment had been worded in some other way it might not have had different consequences for the legal position of the South African delegation in this Assembly," Bouteflika said.

"The question is all the more worthy of consideration because rule 29 of our rules of procedure states: 'Any representative to whose admission a member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives until the credentials committee has reported and the General Assembly has given its decision.'"

The President noted that, year after year, by ever-larger majorities, the Assembly had decided not to recognize the South Africans' credentials, until this year the credentials committee itself took the initiative to reject them.

"It would, therefore, be a

betrayal of the clearly and repeatedly expressed will of the General Assembly to understand this to mean that it was merely a procedural method of expressing its rejection of the policy of apartheid," Bouteflika said.

"On the basis of the consistency with which the General Assembly has regularly refused to accept the credentials of the delegation of South Africa, one may legitimately infer that the General Assembly would in the same way reject the credentials of any other delegation authorized by the government of the republic of South Africa to represent it, which is tantamount to saying in explicit terms that the General Assembly refuses to allow the delegation of South Africa to participate in its work."

U.S. Ambassador John A. Scali formally challenged the ruling. He, French Ambassador Louis de Guiringaud and British Ambassador Ivor Richard also hotly rejected criticisms of the vetoes they cast in the Security Council Oct. 30 to save South Africa's seat when Kenya, Mauritania, Cameroon and Iraq proposed expulsion.

Richard, a distinguished attorney in his own country, called the arguments against South Africa's continued participation in the Assembly proceedings "erroneous and indeed dangerous for the future of the whole United Nations." De Guiringaud made this major point: "Could we receive Namibia more quickly in our midst if we had expelled from our ranks the power which de facto has administrative authority in the territory?"

Put to the vote, Bouteflika's ruling was upheld by 91 votes in favor to 22 against, with 22 abstentions. Those voting against were Australia (which favored expulsion in the Council), Austria (abstained on expulsion), Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica (abstained on expulsion), Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, West Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, U.K. and U.S.

Abstentions were recorded by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Venezuela.

Angry reaction in Pretoria included Prime Minister Balthazar J. Vorster's announcement that South Africa will withhold payment of its million-dollar 1974 U.N. assessment while calling back Ambassador Roelof F. Botha for "consultations." For the time being, the permanent South African mission to the U.N. remains in New York.

Some diplomats said they thought Botha would advise his

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de Seynes Outlines ECOSOC's Job

As the Economic and Social Council headed toward the windup of its work on multinational corporations, Undersecretary-General Philippe de Seynes served notice on the delegates that they face broader challenges than merely such classic targets as General Motors and IBM.

De Seynes, who heads the Economic and Social Affairs Department, suggested the future fields for exploration when he addressed ECOSOC's inter-session committee on transnationals at its week-long session here. While remarking that "it is perhaps not necessary to establish a detailed work program now," he added that "it is fairly easy to discern the major directions which should be pursued" by the proposed UN commission and research center on transnationals. He said:

"Foremost among them are those subjects which were not covered in previous studies: for example, the role of banks in international production; transport and communication, tourism and the development of real estate."

The idea had been mentioned in passing from time to time ever since the Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Persons began its hearing and deliberations on multinationals and their role in Third World development. But it took De Seynes to focus a hard light on the future course of action for the UN's research center and watchdog com-

mission. Addressing himself to other priority considerations, he said:

"There will also have to be considerable work done in areas about which greatly increased information is required: extractive industries, particularly oil; changing aspects of the behavior of transnational companies; organization and decentralization of research activities; the harmonization of accounting practices; how serious, how frequent and how arbitrary is transfer pricing. How much international competition exists? What is the impact of transnational companies on living standards, on consumption habits and on income distribution?"

De Seynes said that if the current 57th ECOSOC meeting could agree on the broad outline of answers to these questions, a detailed work program could be presented to the 59th session a year hence.

The undersecretary-general made it clear that something drastic will have to be done.

"It has become more and more apparent that this new form of (transnational) organization has created a triangular relationship between the home government of the corporations, the host governments and the firms themselves and that this new triangular relationship does not fit easily into the classical forms of international relations as we know them," he said.

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