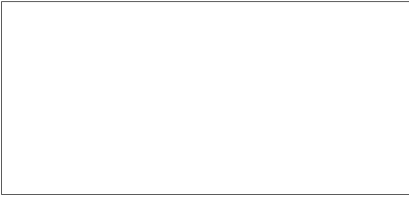


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Appointment of an Interim UN Secretary General

[The 52-year-old U Thant has been Burma's permanent representative at the United Nations since 1957. A close friend of Prime Minister U Nu, Thant has been regarded as one of Burma's more able public servants. He is in accord with Burma's neutralist objectives, but within this pattern is broadly pro-Western in outlook and, according to the American Embassy in Rangoon, a strong anti-Communist. He vigorously defends the right of newly emerging nations to occupy a neutral position between East and West, and has been a persistent advocate of Communist China's admission to the UN. U Thant is a suave, well-groomed man, equally pleasant to those whom he likes and those he dislikes. He speaks excellent English.]

[Hammaraskjold himself considered U Thant a capable negotiator. In January, when he was searching for a successor to Dayal as chief UN mediator in the Congo, Hammaraskjold said he would appoint U Thant if the Burmese Government would release him.]

[In June 1960, as part of his proposed reorganization of the UN Secretariat, Hammaraskjold suggested that five assistant secretaries general with "political" responsibilities be appointed on a broad regional basis. One assistant would always be a US national and one a Soviet. The remaining three should be "nationals from countries outside any power blocs." Although this phraseology seems to endorse the concept of three power blocs, Hammaraskjold on 20 July assured the US delegation that it did not establish any new criteria for the selection of Secretariat personnel beyond competence and geographic distribution, as specified in the UN Charter. Moreover, Hammaraskjold intended to retain the right to appoint these assistants.]

[During the past week UN members, particularly those of the Afro-Asian bloc, have been promoting this plan for five under secretaries with a single secretary general. Their efforts--plus the strong opposition of the West to the troika at the secretary general level--may have influenced the USSR to accede to U Thant's appointment with five advisers.]

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