

Kurt Waldheim (Austria)

January 1, 1972, to December 31, 1981

Born in Sankt Andrä-Wörden, near Vienna, on December 21, 1918, Kurt Waldheim is a lawyer and career diplomat. After receiving a doctorate in law from the University of Vienna, he joined the diplomatic service in 1945 and was appointed the Permanent Observer for Austria to the United Nations in 1955, and then the head of the Austrian mission when Austria was admitted to the United Nations.

From 1956 to 1960, he represented Austria in Canada. He then returned to Vienna, where he served as Director-General for Political Affairs. In 1964, he was named Austria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. From 1968 to 1970 he served as his country's Minister of Foreign Affairs before being re-appointed Austria's Representative to the UN. He held this post until he was named Secretary-General at the end of 1971. After his diplomatic career, he served as President of the Austrian Republic from 1986 to 1992.



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U Thant (Myanmar—formerly Burma)

November 3, 1961, to December 31, 1971

Born at Pantanaw, Myanmar on January 22, 1909, U Thant worked in the field of education and for the government, where he served as Director of Broadcasting, before joining the diplomatic service. In the 1950s he worked in the Prime Minister's office and headed Burma's Economic and Social Board.

In the early 1960s, he represented his country at the UN. On November 3, 1961, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dag Hammarskjöld, who had died in an air crash. One year later he

was appointed for a term of office ending in November 1966, and was subsequently re-elected for another term ending December 31, 1971. U Thant had to deal with an unprecedented number of serious international crises requiring deft handling, including African decolonization, the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, the Indo-Pakistani crisis in 1965, the Middle East war in 1967 and the Vietnam war. U Thant was also a writer, authoring a number of books including *The League of Nations* in 1933. He died in New York in 1974.



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