

United Nations General Assembly

SIXTEENTH SESSION — THE SECOND MONTH*

WITH THE DEATH of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld on September 18, the United Nations was left without a chief administrator. After intensive behind-the-scenes negotiations, the Security Council met on November 3 to consider the problem of appointing a successor. The Council decided unanimously to recommend to the General Assembly that U Thant, the Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, be appointed Acting Secretary-General for the unexpired portion of Mr. Hammarskjöld's term. Later the same day, the General Assembly approved this recommendation and unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by Ceylon, Liberia and the United Arab Republic appointing Ambassador Thant Acting Secretary-General "for a term of office until April 10, 1963".



U Thant, Acting UN Secretary-General.

In his remarks after the ceremony of installation, Ambassador Thant noted the problems facing the United Nations, particularly its financial problems and the difficulties with the Congo operation. He would require the support of the Assembly and the Secretariat, he said, and would invite a "limited number of persons who are at present Under-Secretaries or are to be appointed as Under-Secretaries" to act as principal advisers. These advisers would be chosen with Article 101 of the Charter as a guide. Among them would be Dr. Ralph Bunche and Georgy Petrovitch Arkadev. He referred to this arrangement as being "without prejudice to such future organizational changes as experience may reveal to be necessary".

In extending congratulations to the new Acting Secretary-General, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, noted that Ambassador Thant's appointment had been accomplished without sacrifice of the integrity of the office of the Secretary-General or the fundamental principles

*The first month of the session was reported in the November issue of the *Bulletin*, p. 370