

a decision. In addition, he may be called upon to perform special functions under instructions from the Council or the Assembly, or he may, on occasion, use his good offices to seek a solution to a question without bringing it before any specific United Nations body. Prevailing international conditions and the personality and ability of a particular Secretary-General determine the extent of his involvement in specific problems and the way in which these problems are handled.

The present Secretary-General, U Thant of Burma, was appointed Acting Secretary-General on November 3, 1961, to complete the unexpired term of office of the late Dag Hammarskjöld. In November 1962, U Thant was appointed Secretary-General for a five-year term, to take effect from November 3, 1961.

The Secretary-General is assisted by a staff of approximately 4,300 international civil servants representing 106 nationalities. Article 101 (3) of the Charter states that "the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible". To this end, every person joining the Secretariat must take an oath "to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization".

The staff of the Secretariat is divided into three categories: directing staff, professional personnel and general-service personnel. In 1964 there were 19 under-secretaries, 38 directors, and 95 principal officers in the first category. Persons in the professional staff positions, which numbered about 1,835 in 1964, are, like the directing staff, recruited on an international basis under the terms of the Charter, the relevant Assembly resolutions, and the staff rules and regulations. The third category, general service, consisted of approximately 2,300 positions in 1964. General-service personnel are normally recruited locally, either at United Nations headquarters in New York or at the field office in which they will serve. Each member state is assigned a "desirable range" of posts for the approximately 1,400 posts, which are subject to geographical distribution. In 1964 Canada's "desirable range" was 32-42 posts and 39 Canadians were actually employed in this category.¹

¹ The organization of the Secretariat is illustrated in the chart included in this chapter, and a list of the principal officers of the Secretariat during 1964 is given in Appendix II (7)