

In his conduct of the United Nations intervention in the Congo and in the role which he performed in relation to other situations, U Thant further demonstrated his qualities of perseverance and calm judgment. Throughout the year, he had shown a marked ability to make administrative adjustments in the Secretariat which brought about a more satisfactory balance in its composition and a renewal of Secretariat confidence without impairing its essential character as an international service. As Acting Secretary-General, U Thant had displayed the courage of his convictions without incurring displeasure, particularly among the great powers. It was the view of an overwhelming number of members that he should continue in office for a regular term of five years, dating, at his own wish, from November 3, 1961. His unanimous election ensured that the organization would have the benefit of his steady hand and quiet influence for stability.

During his tenure as Acting Secretary-General and in addition to his widespread interest in pressing political problems, U Thant has sought to give new emphasis to the economic and social work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. In public statements and in a number of reports, he has stressed the need to eradicate the basic causes of war (poverty, famine and disease) and to give strong support to the programmes envisaged for the United Nations Decade of Development. The work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in the economic and social fields, which occupies a much larger proportion of the international civilian staff than any other kind of activity, goes along so quietly that it does not always receive the public attention which it deserves. Yet it is increasingly apparent that success in raising living standards in the less-developed areas and in expanding and stabilizing international economic relations may, in the long run, settle the question of war and peace.

For the less-developed nations, the maintenance of peaceful progress in future may well depend on whether they are able, soon and sufficiently, to establish for themselves viable economies and stable societies. For those nations, political independence will be meaningless unless it is accompanied by economic uplift and well-being. If the newly established governments fail to provide the desired economic and social benefit, unrest and revolt can be expected to follow, with all the opportunities which this would offer for trouble-making by outsiders. Accordingly, in a very real sense, whatever the United Nations can do to assist the governments in the less-developed areas to bring about economic and social advancement serves significantly the cause of political stability and ultimately the cause of peace.

The role of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in providing an effective framework for economic and social development is well established. Although there may be differences as regards emphasis and priorities, there is little disagreement about the importance of the various assistance programmes. It is recognized that these essential activities must be adequately