

Table 1. The Secretary-General Alerts the Security Council
(see caption in document text)

Secretary-General	Meeting Date	Situation	Description
Trygve Lie (1946-53)	25 Jun 1950	North Korea attacks South Korea. USA notifies SG of attack. SG obtains independent confirmation and details of attack from the UN Commission on Korea.	At an emergency SC meeting, requested by the US (and boycotted by the former Soviet Union), SG speaks first, stating that "military actions have been undertaken by North Korean forces" which were a "direct violation" of General Assembly resolution 293 (IV) and of the <i>UN Charter</i> . He said that the situation was "a threat to international peace ... I consider it the clear duty of the SC to take steps necessary to re-establish peace in that area." SC passes resolutions condemning attack as breach of the peace. On 27 June, SC calls upon UN Members to furnish assistance to repel the attack. [Lie, pp. 323-33]
Dag Hammarskjöld (1953-61)	7 Sep 1959	Laos alleges Vietnamese aggression and requests SG to send an emergency UN force.	SG asks SC President to "convene urgently" a SC meeting, which President does under his own authority. USA desires to introduce a draft resolution to establish a fact-finding body as a procedural matter, and thus avoid Soviet veto. At meeting, SG states he is not invoking <i>Article 99</i> , which would cause matter to be considered substantial, but is only reporting to SC on agenda item introduced by SC President. He states that he has insufficient knowledge to make judgement as to the facts. US Draft resolution is carried, over Soviet objections, and fact-finding Committee is established. Committee reports indicate that Lao allegations are overstated. No UN force is sent. [UNYB 1959, pp. 62-65]
	13 Jul 1960	Congolese government cables SG with a request for UN military assistance to protect against Belgian paratroops. These had been dispatched to protect Belgian interests (including inhabitants) in the former colony. The country is in chaos.	SG requests urgent meeting of the SC for that evening on "a matter which, in my opinion, may threaten international peace and security." At meeting, he recommends a UN force be sent to Congo, so that Belgian forces could be withdrawn and to prevent other countries (esp. former Soviet Union) from sending troops. SC authorizes him to send the UN force. UNOC, which at its peak numbers about 20,000 troops, is established to help keep law and order. [Cordier & Foote, vol. V, pp. 16-27; UN Doc. S/4381; S/PV.873]
	22 Jul 1961	Fighting intensifies around Bizerta, Tunisia, between French forces (which occupy the city) and Tunisian soldiers and civilians. Tunisia had blockaded the French naval base at Bizerta.	At the second SC meeting dealing with the Bizerta question, SG speaks to SC: "News reaching us from Tunisia indicates that the serious and threatening development which the Council took up for consideration yesterday continues, with risks of irreparable damage to international peace and security." In view of the "obligations of the Secretary-General acting under <i>Article 99</i> ", he appeals to SC to make an immediate call for cease-fire and return of all armed forces to original positions. SC adopts a resolution with these provisions by vote of 10-0, with France refusing to participate. [Cordier & Foote, vol. V, pp. 526-530]
U Thant (1962-71)	29 Apr 1963	The Imam of Yemen is deposed in a <i>coup d'état</i> by republicans. The UAR recognizes new regime, while Saudi Arabia supports the Imam. Fighting breaks out. UAR sends troops.	SG informs SC of his initiatives to ensure against "any developmet in the situation which might threaten the peace in the area." Explains that the three parties have agreed to the stationing of a UN observer mission (UNYOM) and will pay for it. UNYOM is established to observe disengagement and withdrawal of foreign forces, including supervision of a demilitarized zone. At 11 June 1963 meeting Thant warns that "disengagement may be jeopardized if the United Nations observation personnel are not on the spot." SC passed resolution approving observation force, which conducted operations until 4 Sep 1964. [Cordier & Foote, vol. VI, pp. 328-30]