

UN Africa Staff News



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ABOUT OUR COVER

A general view of the General Assembly as it ended its twenty-seventh session, 19 December 1972.

It was at this session that the decision was made to establish an international civil service commission.

In this issue of Africa UN Staff News Mr. N.G. Rathore, President of FICSA, comments in detail on the newly established Commission.

Quotable Quotes

Fools rush in where fools have been before

15/11/68

AN OPEN LETTER TO STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

by Dr. N.G. Rathore, President, FICSA

Most worthwhile institutions-- and I firmly believe FICSA to belong to this category -- pass through periods of transition. Our Federation is experiencing one such phase at the present time. Divisions have arisen within some associations (particularly in UN/Geneva, FAO and ILO) and we are witnessing what amounts to strife among those who should be bound together for common purposes. These centrifugal forces, if not checked or harnessed, could weaken these associations and unions which together make up our Federation. At a time when the possibility of a genuine dialogue, on equal terms, before the International Civil Service Commission is close to realization, at a time when we should close our ranks, plan and mobilize all our resources, when we should speak with a united voice before the Commission, these divisions, having become apparent, will take their toll on the staff associations and consequently the Federation's ability to speak with less than their wonted authority.

In face of these difficulties we should not hurry to apportion blame or point an accusing finger at this or that group. Rather, we should try to mend the fences, and keep in mind that behind the different approaches, often dictated by varying temperaments, those who seek short cuts and those who lean on diplomatic negotiation, there is probably little difference in the objectives at which all parties are aiming. If some seem rash and over-hasty, others perhaps appear at times slow or inclined to making patience too much of a virtue.

It is because I am conscious of this underlying unity of purpose among staff representatives apparently at loggerheads that I believe we should by no means despair of the true mission of FICSA, which is, I am sure we all agree, to link together all associations and unions which are seeking in various ways to safeguard the status and protect the legitimate interests of international civil servants. We have never sought to stifle independence of expression or to impose a dull level of uniformity on our colleagues. FICSA has ever been the meeting place of varying points of view, of different approaches, a place where we have laboured to find common ground on which to build constructive policies, serving the interests of the organizations themselves, as well as the well-being of those who work for them.

Unity, therefore, remains our goal, and as soon as the associations have composed their internal differences, it may well be that FICSA will gain a new access of strength and vitality.

But, when all this has been said, the present moment is one of the least auspicious imaginable for an exhibition of fraternal strife and internal discord. All organizations are wrestling with a budgetary crisis, arising in part from a long-standing dissatisfaction on the part of governments with the internal administrative procedures and practices -- doubts, that is, about their real efficiency in organizational and managerial terms.

Lacking, so often, clear guidance as to what is contributing to rising costs, bodies like the Salary Review Committee seize on staff salaries as constituting the largest single element in any given budget, as being the

most suitable target for attack and reduction. Repeatedly invited by FICSA to probe into managerial and organizational deficiencies, they have concentrated on the salaries and allowances of international civil servants, and have succeeded to "freeze" them for a period of unspecified duration. Thus, although the findings of the Committee have been shelved, although a minority report subjected its findings to a critical analysis of unprecedented severity, the staff at large find themselves the victims of a virtual "freeze" as regards salaries and conditions of service. Staff in the European-based agencies and pensioners outside the dollar area are equally suffering painful and unmerited losses, while other pensioners are also suffering from galloping inflation in the cost of basic commodities and stiff tax liabilities.

An International Civil Service Commission is to be established, a new era inaugurated, in 1974. These situations are fraught with dangers and demand both thought and action on our part. "Wait and see" is not always a good guide. "by the street of By-and-By," says Cervantes, "you arrive at the house of Never." In fact, the present moment is critical in the history of the international service of the United Nations family. New approaches, new concepts are being investigated and their possibilities are being assessed in practical terms. It would be little short of a disaster if, at a time when staff collaboration is being solicited, when our views are being sought on a number of issues, we should prove incapable of the internal discipline required to present a unified front of the sort which we achieved last year, for example, in our preparation for the Salary Review Committee.

FICSA had to defend the legitimate interests of staff before administrations, before inter-agency bodies such as ACC, CCAQ and ICSAB, before expert bodies such as ECPA, or the recent Salary Review Committee. It is the only effective means of co-ordinating policy for presentation to various bodies, and it discharges important functions before legislative bodies such as ACABQ, the Fifth Committee, and will fulfill, we hope, even more important functions before the International Civil Service Commission when it is established next year.

At no time in the last 25 years has there been presented such an encouraging opportunity for the accredited representatives of the staff at large to participate in the establishment of new and more effective policy-making procedures. It will be a tragedy, indeed, unthinkable, if, having reached this moment of truth in the history of the United Nations family, we, as a Federation, should prove incapable of harnessing the energies, talents and experience which are to be found among members and ensuring that they are given proper expression.

One of the sources of our present weakness has been the gradual withdrawal of staff members from active participation in the affairs of the associations and unions. There have been many reasons for this unhappy state of affairs. We have to admit that it is less a loss of faith in the possibilities of effective action by the associations and unions than a widespread loss of confidence in the whole administrative structure of the International Civil Service. Political factors have tended, more and more, to influence the appointments of the agencies. The whole process of career planning and promotion, to the deficiencies of which FICSA has repeatedly drawn the attention of the competent authorities, has been

handled with a lack of strict regard for the elementary principles of justice, let alone of administrative order. The system not only fails to command the confidence of the staff, it has fostered in them a spirit of cynicism, always harmful, but doubly so in institutions such as ours, founded as they are on human aspirations and with clearly delineated moral objectives.

Clearly there is much to be put in order, much that requires a thorough overhall. By setting up the International Civil Service Commission the governments have made a gesture towards these reforms, which many judge to be vital if the great purposes to which the United Nations Charter and the conventions of the agencies are to be sustained in a rapidly changing world. At such an historical juncture, the staff representatives cannot afford any further weakening of its representational functions. For years FICSA has pointed the way towards more coherent and unified policies and procedures on the part of the administrations. Our own unity as embodied in FICSA has been in advance of the times. Now that the organizations have given an expression for review, change and perhaps follow our precepts and practice, let us see to it that our present divisions are quickly healed so that we can speak with authority on behalf of all staff members spread all over the world, and for the strengthening of the concept and character of our service.



UNITED NATIONS STAMP-COLLECTING IN EUROPE

by
Ted Morello

LONDON -- "Collect stamps--a great hobby".

The slogan cancellation, which appeared recently on mail posted in the United Kingdom, reflects a new push by European government postal administrations to promote philately--a campaign which the United Nations Postal Administration is confident will have a spin-off effect on UN stamp sales.

UNPA stamp agents in London and Paris--as well as at the postal administration's Geneva headquarters--agree that there is an untapped reservoir of potential United Nations collectors in Europe. For example, one of UNPA's newest agents, Capt. C.M. McMiran of London, says with the authority of 26 years as a stamp dealer: "I have proved to the Postal Administration of the UN in Geneva that sales can be increased 300-500 per cent if one makes a special promotion".

Under UNPA's new multiple-distributor program, McMiran now shares UN stamp sales rights in the United Kingdom with the Crown Agents. UNPA Chief Ole Hamann has said that the administration's experience with the McMiran agency--a pilot project in multiple dealerships launched this year--has been "very successful, in our view".

In Paris, the UN Postal Administration's agency already is experiencing an upsurge of interest in United Nations collecting, coupled with a new phenomenon: teen-ager enrollment in the ranks of philately. The development was emphasized in an interview by Eanoel de Barros of the Philatelic Service of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the agency for UNPA in France. "Of the 5,000 customers on our mailing list alone", De Barros said, "30 per cent are below the age of 25, and many are in their early teens".

He attributed the burgeoning interest among the young to two major factors. One is the philatelic promotional activities carried on by the French National Commission for UNESCO and French UNESCO clubs through the Ministry of Education. The other is the fact that "young people are receptive to the United Nations".

De Barros said that although the youngsters "don't have very much money to spend, we encourage them anyway".

He is confident that, once introduced to philately, many will remain lifelong hobbyists who will invest more and more in stamps as their earning power increases with adulthood.

In Switzerland, Paul Voutsinas, chief of UNPA's Geneva office, reports that the United Nations is reaping benefits from another development: a rising interest in thematic collecting among Europe's 15 million known philatelists. As an example, he cites the case of the UN/Geneva issue of September 1972 commemorating the Economic Commission for Europe. He said sales of that issue were 25 per cent above normal as the result of purchases by thematic collectors who associated it with the Europa series released by government postal administrations in recent years.

Voutsinas' observation was corroborated in London by the British UN stamp collectors' club, the United Nations Study Group. As one knowledgeable club officer commented recently: "Those (UNPA) issues with a strong thematic flavor --such as the Universal Postal Union, Human Rights, etc.--are in great demand by non-UN collectors".

Voutsinas adds that overall, UN stamp sales are increasing in Europe. He attributes the rise to the Geneva office's "service and seriousness", coupled with the high quality of stamp issues.

On the theory that what's good for philately generally is good for UN collecting specifically, Voutsinas welcomes such promotional activities as the British slogan cancellation. In fact, he reports that postal administrations throughout Europe have now set up full philatelic services, including substantial budgeting for such promotional activities as participation in stamp exhibitions and the publication of attractive and informative brochures, flyers and newsletters.

The Geneva chief agrees with McMiran on the importance of promotion and with De Barros on the necessity for developing philatelic interest among young people.

Promotionally, the Geneva office is continuing to participate in such major philatelic events as the IBRA-73 exhibition--one of the world's largest and most prestigious--held in Munich this spring. On opening day along, more than 33,000 worth of stamps were sold at the exhibit's UNPA counter despite the fact, Voutsinas says, that "we were competing against 20 or 30 national postal administrations--most of which had much larger promotional budgets than we had".

Referring specifically to young collectors, he advocates intensified co-operation between youth clubs and schools on the one hand and UNESCO on the other. He points out that as the UN's educational organization, UNESCO would be the appropriate agency for stimulating interest in the United Nations and its activities through stamps -- "The primary raison d'etre of the UN Postal Administration".

Invitation from UNWA

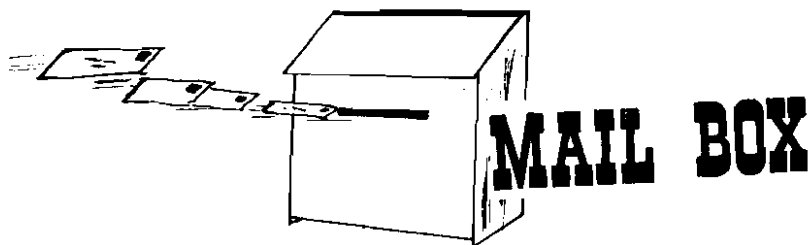
by Mrs. Jane Abraham, Chairman

The United Women's Association invites all DCA staff members and their families and friends to come to their Annual Bazaar, which will be held in Africa Hall on Saturday, October 13, from 11:00 am. until 5:00 pm. The hundred or so members of the Association are busily preparing for the event, which will feature fine boutique and handicraft items, bottle and plant stalls, white elephants and children's games, and movies and food with an international flavour. A raffle, whose grand prize is a trip to Lalibela donated by Ethiopian Airlines and the Ethiopian Tourist Organization, will be drawn at 4:00 p.m.

The funds raised at the Bazaar will be donated to various Ethiopian social welfare groups. The funds will send children to Langano for two weeks, purchase needed equipment such as sewing machines, and help institutions such as schools, hostels and hospitals. The Association devotes a great deal of time and effort to fund raising because welfare is one of its main concerns.

The other main function of the Association is bringing together members of the U.N. family now living in Addis Ababa. A tea, or occasionally a luncheon, is held on the second Tuesday of each month and each newcomer receives a special Welcome at another time. Each year's social highlight is a Dance, one of which was held last June at the Guenet Hotel and featured international food and a live band with entertainment. Mrs. Singh, our membership Chairman, will be most happy to tell you more about the Association and how to become a member of it. She can be reached at 448567.

See you at the Bazaar!



Co-operation again

In the last issue of the "Staff News", we published two letters to the Editor which complained of ill treatment from certain Personnel officers. We understand that, since the publication of these letters, corrective action has been taken.

This corrective action is progress. It is a credit to the UN system; it is of benefit to OCA.

To the author of this corrective action we say, "good work", and to all we repeat the title of an article published in a previous issue of the "Staff News": "things are Changing around Here".

UN Staff News

Budding Journalists, ARISE!

The "Staff News" needs writers! You can pick your own subjects to write about, or can take articles on assignment from the Editor. Get in touch with: Africa UN Staff News.

A propos des "Perles"

Cher Rédacteur,

C'est en rentrant de congé que j'ai trouvé dans le no 5 du "Africa UN Staff News" votre note sur les perles trouvées par le central dactylographique. Cela n'est pas tellement tragique! Les "coquilles", quand elles sont signalées par les "proofreaders" sont corrigées sur les stencils et ne voient donc jamais le jour sauf dans ma "rubrique" - ("contrasting parties" au lieu de "contracting parties"; "instituteurs" pour "instituteurs" et "une préférence parquée" pour "marquée", par exemple). Pour les phrases et expressions assez cocasses que nous trouvons dans les documents qui nous sont soumis, elles sont presque toujours corrigées aussi ("un organisme qui organise" par exemple). Le central fait de son mieux mais hélas personne n'est infailliable et c'est bien nous qui avons créé la "division mixte CEA/OAU"... Quant aux perles qui sont reproduites dans les divisions, c'est souvent trop tard pour corriger, car nous les trouvons dans des documents déjà distribués.

A. Turceninoff

Note du Rédacteur

Je vous remercie Madame pour cette mise au point qui nous met à l'aise. Qu'il me soit cependant permis de faire remarquer que je n'avais déploré que le manque de temps qui ne permet pas toujours à ceux qui soumettent les documents de les relire correctement. De toutes les façons le fait de nous signaler ces "perles" nous permet d'être plus attentifs.

Need we Medical Kits?

It has come to the attention of the Staff News that staff members traveling from UN Headquarters in New York to developing countries are provided with small medical kits, while staff members traveling from ECA Headquarters are not. The Staff News would welcome letters from readers giving their opinions of this situation.

To set things straight.

A month ago we received from a staff member a constructive letter of complaint, which we published in the last issue of "Africa UN Staff News". As it is our policy to stay above personal conflicts and as the details of the problem were known to all those affected by it, the names of both the writer and the object of the complaint were withheld.

Since then some of our readers have given free rein to their imaginations, with no ill intent, we hope. They have imagined that we were criticizing someone who is no longer with us, and have leveled an accusation to that effect.

Staff members who faced the problem to which the letter referred, and most others, know perfectly well that the rumoured name was not the one involved.

Also, staff members will recall that the Staff Council published on 29 August a "Flash"; the Staff Council would not contradict its own flash in the "Staff News". Our policy is fairness not foolishness.

We are sure that those of our readers who had the incorrect impression have understood, as most staff members did previously.

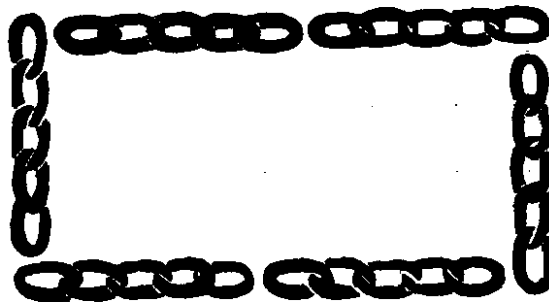
UN Staff News



Our Readers Have Talent

Riddles

1. A Dr. in London has a brother who is an engineer in Paris. An engineer in Paris hasn't a brother who is a Dr. in London. What is their relationship?
2. On a pillar half a circle near a circle. What is it and where is it?
3. A farmer had six pieces of chain of five links each, which he wanted made into an endless piece of thirty links. If it costs eight cents to cut a link open and eighteen cents to weld it again, and if a new endless chain could be bought for a dollar and half, how much would be saved by the cheapest plan?



Note: Submit your solutions to these riddles to the Editor, room 606 not later than 10 October 1973 at 3 pm.

The sender of the first correct set of solutions will receive a prize.

HUMOUR IN UN

First things first

When 13-year-old girl and mother were talking about women's liberation one day, the mother said firmly, "I don't want to be liberated," The daughter said, "I don't want to be liberated ~~either~~-at least not until I know how it feels to be captured."

HE: I keep hearing you repeat the word jerk. I hope you are not referring to me.

SHE: Don't be so conceited. As if there were no other jerks in the world.

SHE: Why has a woman never been president?

HE: Don't you know the president has to be over 35?

HE: Do you believe in clubs for women?

HIM: Yeah, if kindness fails.

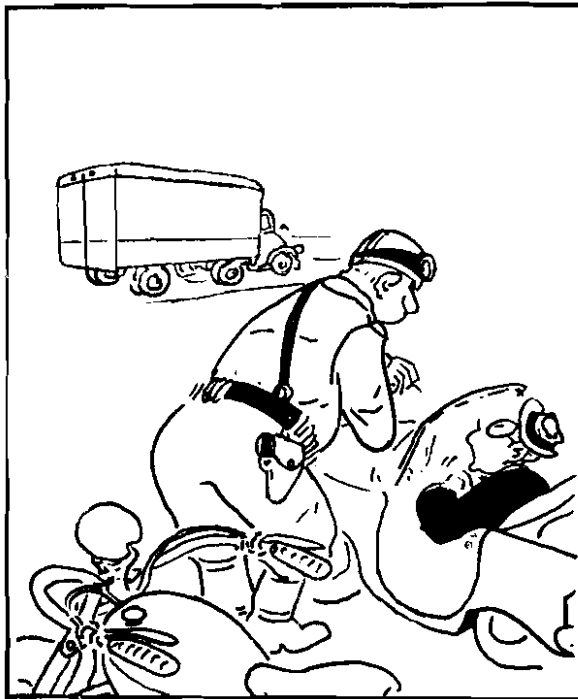
Man, as he puts down the phone, to another man: "It was an obscene call from a liberated woman."

Couple, showing house plans to another couple: "If you think the floor plan is complicated, you should see the financial plan!"

Mary had a little car; she drove it very brisk. Wasn't she a foolish girl, her little car?

La Méthode

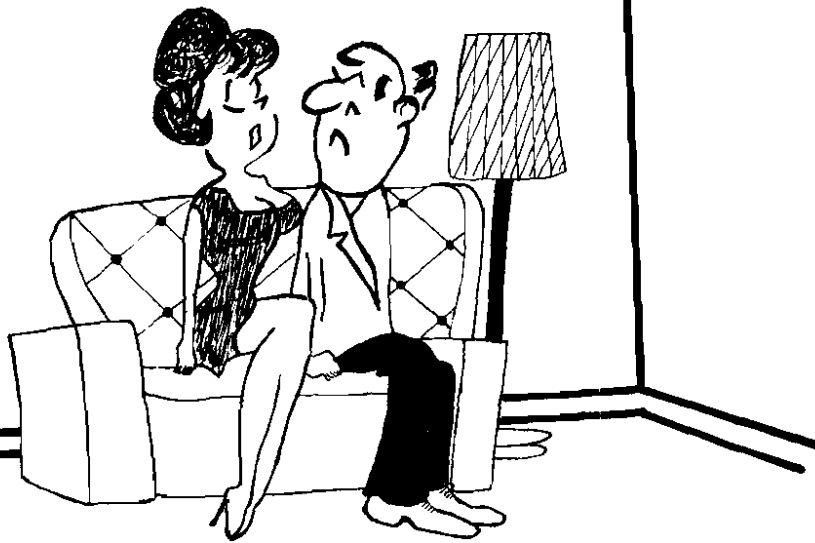
- Qui t'a payé ce superbe manteau de fourrure?
- Mon mari, bien sûr! Figure-toi que la semaine dernière je le surprends dans son bureau en train d'embrasser sa secrétaire. Tu vois le résultat...
- Et de plus, tu lui as demandé de mettre cette fille à la porte?
- Pas encore! J'ai besoin d'un collier de perles...



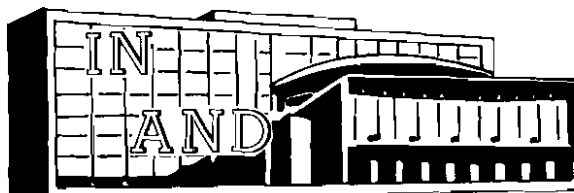
"Show me in the law where it says you can't pass a truck UNDERNEATH"



"I told you at the office to-day that I'd discuss a raise with you tomorrow.
"Well, it's 11:59 p.m.- in just one minute it will be tomorrow."



"All right, I agree that we become engaged but on the condition-that we keep it secret- I don't want my husband to find out."



AROUND

E C A



I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4,7

Miss Astri P. Thommessen
1914-1973

Miss Thommessen was born in Antung-Manchuria (China), and was a citizen of Norway. She was a student several times in her life, learning shorthand, commerce, administration and languages-Norwegian, German, English, French and Russian.

From 1935 until 1961 she held a series of jobs in Norway--with the Ministry of Justice, the Oslo School of Languages, a dairy laboratory, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Tourist Service and other organizations. From 1962 until 1964 she worked with the United Nations in the Congo, and then she came to work at ECA.

Miss Thommessen worked hard, and capably. She always said what she thought should be said, no matter when, or where, or to whom. She worked for all of us at one time or another, or at many times.

And now she is gone, suddenly and tragically. We do not choose in this article to probe the circumstances of her death or to draw philosophical conclusions from it. We only choose to say that we are very, very sorry. We wish, oh, how we wish, she were still with us.



ECA Staff members after the service in memory of Miss Astri Thommessen on 1 September 1973 and at the airport to see her remains off to her home country.

Goodbye Astri Thommessen

A Eulogy pronounced by
Mr. Robert A. Gardiner at the memorial
service for the late Miss Thommessen

Revelations Chapter VII, verse 9, 15-17

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the lamb, clothed in white robes and with palm branches in **their hands**.. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst **any** more; the sun shall not strike them nor any scorching heat. For the lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd. He will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes".

We are gathered here not to pay tribute but to say goodbye to a loyal and tireless colleague. It is significant that she took with her to Sodere her typewriter and her files to work even in her spare time. We missed her on Monday because it was so unlike her to be absent from work. She was a cheerful and fearless comrade full of adventure. Alas it is this spirit of adventure that brought upon her this sad and sudden end! She was one of us. With us she was part of the great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues. She was also a veteran of the Congo, a soldier for peace.

On an occasion like this we think of her aged parents, her brothers and sisters and other relatives and friends. May God wipe away every tear from their eyes.

We wonder. We do not understand. We cannot explain. Why should this happen to you? To us who are accustomed to see you at our side in the performance of our daily tasks, and to your dear ones? This questioning reveals our mortal weakness. Our feeble minds cannot fully comprehend the ways of God. We remind ourselves:

"Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain"

Goodbye! God be with you, Astri Thommessen, Goodbye.

Farewell message at memorial service
for Miss Astri Thommessen

Delivered by Dr. Ademola Banjo,
Chairman, ECA Staff Association at
the memorial Service held in the
Mekane Yesus Church on 1st September
1973

We are gathered here this afternoon to say farewell to a colleague and a friend whose life and communion with us was cut short recently by a tragic incident. Astri Thommessen was a much-valued member of our ECA Community.

There are only a few people like Astri in every organization. They are the type of people who toil diligently and assiduously day after day, quietly and without asking for any special recognition or rewards. Such people form the backbone of any community. Often we get to the stage of believing that they will always be there.

Astri had been a member of staff of the ECA for nearly ten years and was looking forward to retirement next year. It adds to our sense of grief that some malevolent human hand has deprived her of a well-earned period of rest after a life of unceasing toil and service to humanity. She will be sorely missed by her friends and colleagues at Africa Hall.

In gathering here to pay homage to her memory, let us not express our affection only in fine words. We owe a loyalty to her to ensure that she receives justice. We should pledge ourselves not to rest until those who are responsible for doing so search out and bring to justice whoever was the cause of the incident that led to her untimely death.

On behalf of all your friends and colleagues at ECA, I say Goodbye ASTRI.

Dear Mr. Gardiner,

I have just learnt with deep sorrow of Astri Thommessen's tragic end, and should like to share with you, the entire ECA staff and her relatives, your deep sense of loss. Like all of us she had her idiosyncrasies, but was a very nice person. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Yours in sympathy,

C.L. Patterson
UNDP, Dakar

I would like to express my gratitude to all ECA Staff and the Staff Council for expressing their condolences on my bereavement I encountered owing to my husband's untimely death.

Sosina Bekele

UN Week Festivities planned

On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations the UCA Staff Association is planning to hold various events spread over a period of seven days, commencing on the 20th and ending on the 27th of October 1973.

Among the activities planned for this year's UN Week are such indoor activities as a fashion show, a quiz, table tennis, bridge and a gala dance. Out-door events will include foot-ball, volley-ball, athletics, a car rally, etc.

This year's 'UN week' is envisaged to attract even more participation from Staff members than in 1972.

Detailed programmes of activities will be circulated to staff members by the sub-Committees responsible for the various events, as follows:

SUB-COMMITTEES FOR THE ORGANIZATION
OF UN WEEK 1973

(co-ordinators C. Mangwana and Amare G. Haskel)

I.	Table Tennis:	Wency Soares Elizabeth Asfaw Tsedale T. Berhan	Men's singles/doubles Ladies' singles/double " " "
II.	Bridge.	Mohinder Bhutani	
III.	Athletics	Valeri Vincenzo	
IV.	Volley Ball	Alfredo Garofolo	
V.	Treasure Hunt	Delia Delton Barbara Walker	
VI.	Car Rally Hippie Contest	Lakew Assefa Hector Lapierre J.J. Bochet J. Spijkerman	
VII.	Variety contest	J. Dubois M. Santos Gebreyesus H.M. Isaac Fenot S. Victoria Berhane	
VIII.	Film Show	Elizabeth Asfaw Y.V. Kartsev	
IX.	Marathon	Atnafu Mengistu Desta T.M.	
X.	Broomball	Brenda Prouty	
XI.	Swimming	L. Bourne	

XII. Golf

A.M. Nakamura
J. Chilesi

Staff members interested in participating in one or more of these events should give their names to one of the appropriate sub-committee members, preferably during the first week of October, to facilitate planning.

Highly attractive prizes will go to the lucky winners!

Don't be shy... If you have any talent.... this is your chance to show your colleagues just how smart you are.

Forget not, popularity is creditable!

Sefia Moves on to London

Many of us knew some time before the official announcement that Gabriel Sefia was moving on to London. He will direct the Economic Research Division of the new International Cocoa Organization. This is quite an important job in an organization which will of considerable benefit to the cocoa-producing countries.

At Mr. Sefia's going-away party on 21 September there were several speeches, and some to-do was made of the fact that the party was co-sponsored by the Staff Association (he was a member of the Staff Council) and a substantive division (the Trade, Fiscal and Monetary Affairs Division). This seemed to herald a new era of cooperation. There was also an explanation of why he was leaving--that although he had been employed by ECA he was in reality almost on loan from UNCTAD and was always subject to being called to work with the cocoa agreement. During the negotiations he was called periodically, but after the agreement had been signed his services were needed on a permanent basis. It was stated that Mr. Sefia had done a superb job as Chief of the Africa Trade Centre and that we would miss him, and he himself said that he would have wished to stay longer with ECA but that it is the duty of an international civil servant to go where he is needed.

Yet amid the speeches and gifts there seemed to be one topic omitted--there were no well-wishes for the future success of the Africa Trade Centre or of the persons left to carry on its work. The Centre's professional staff now consists of seven persons, including the newly-appointed Acting Chief, Mr. B. N. T. Mutharika. Two are regular ECA staff members,

one is a regional adviser, and four are bilateral experts. As there are no junior officers in the Centre, some of the bilateral experts may leave without having had the opportunity to provide for the continuation of their work by training successors. Moreover, the experts often profess to feeling under employed because much of their time is spent doing work which could easily be delegated to less experienced staff members.

The "Staff News" wishes Mr. Sefia success in London, and it wishes the Africa Trade Centre continuing success in Africa. It hopes that the Centre's staff will become more and more competent to help African countries with the vital task of increasing their export earnings.



Around ECA HQ the
EVE of MASKAL.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW !

Clinic newsletter

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Oh, no, I am not talking about 'Life Insurance'. As a matter of fact, I am afraid it is rather a 'bloody' affair. Yes, a matter of plasma, and red and white corpuscles.

Not very long ago, one of our ECA fraternity had to be hospitalized and was in dire need of an immediate blood transfusion. The clinic had to send an SOS for donations of blood and the spontaneous alacrity with which our staff responded to the SOS was rather overwhelming. The clinic wants to thank all the members of our staff for the quick and ready response they showed and for the enthusiastic co-operation they extended on such a vital occasion. Our particular gratitude to our man at the helm, Mr. Gardiner, who was in fact the very first volunteer-donor, and also to Mr. Blumeris, Dr. Morcos and Mr. Amonoo John Hector, who donated the precious life fluid.

In view of the fact that such emergencies may occur in the future, the clinic would like to inform the staff of a few facts regarding blood donations. I am happy to say that we have come to an understanding with the Blood Bank. The Blood Bank has agreed to release the needed quantity of blood from their stock on request from our clinic in case of emergencies, provided we supplement their stock with an equal quantity within two or three days. This is a special arrangement with us as, in the normal course, they release blood only on receiving donors in advance.

You may belong to any of the different blood groups. The bank does not insist on a replacement of the same type of blood it has released and we can reimburse the bank with an equivalent quantity of any type of blood. However, please remember that there are certain circumstances under which a person is not advised to donate blood or even should not donate blood. So, please do not let your enthusiasm to help carry you away and please check with the clinic first before you donate blood.

Dr. (Mrs.) Nayar

Hotel discounts for traveling UN staff members

According to the Secretariat News, Volume XXVIII, No. 11, 15 June 1973, the Office of General Services of the UN in New York has requested the assistance of Cook's travel service and heads of UN Offices around the world in obtaining up-to-date information about hotel rate discounts available to UN staff.

ECA staff members who know of hotel rate discounts available to UN staff members are invited to co-operate by sending details to Mr. Albert Mensah, room 606, who will forward them to New York. When the Hotel Discount Register has been compiled the Staff Council will request a copy to place in the Staff Club, and we assume the Administration will request copies for the ECA Travel Unit.

UN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Note: As many ECA staff members are members of the UN Federal Credit Union, we find this article from Secretariat News No. 12, 29 June 1973, very useful for information purposes.

"The Board of Directors has decided to: (a) increase until further notice the monthly limit on deposits to \$150; (b) increase the total limit on shares to \$7,000. In principle, amounts above that limit will be paid out at the end of each quarter. However, as a temporary measure the Board of Directors has suspended the automatic pay-out. The excess over \$7,000 will continue to earn dividends, but should the Credit Union be unable to invest surplus funds at a rate substantially above the dividend rate of 6 per cent the Board reserves the right to pay out all shares in excess of \$7,000 per account. Members are of course free to withdraw any part of their share accounts at any time."

Insurance for ECA Staff Members

Earlier this year, the ECA Staff Association assisted the Ethiopian Life Insurance Company, S.C., in offering term group life and accident insurance to staff members. Several staff members decided to purchase this insurance, which will go into effect soon.

Other staff members, however, decided not to purchase this insurance because it offered no savings (endowment) feature. These staff members prefer to pay more and to receive a cash benefit, after 25 years, while they are still living. The same company, Ethiopian Life, offers endowment insurance.

Staff members who have not subscribed to the term life plan, and are

interested in the endowment plan, may contact Ato Amare G. Maskal, room 313, for more information.

Staff members who have subscribed to the term life plan, and who would be interested in adding the endowment feature, should deal directly with the insurance company.

BUDGET OF THE ECA STAFF ASSOCIATION
JULY 1973 - JUNE 1974

At its third regular meeting of 2 August 1973, the Staff Council approved the Budget of the Staff Association for the Financial Year 1973/74. The budget is presented herewith for the information of members of the Association.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Eth. \$.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>Eth. \$</u>
<u>I. Subscriptions</u>		<u>I. Administrative Expenses</u>	
1.1 Members' subscriptions	4,400.00	1.1 Secretary's "	100.00
		1.2 Treasurer's "	100.00
		1.3 Bank Charges	30.00
<u>II. Other Income</u>		<u>II. Contributions</u>	
2.1 UN Welfare Grant	2,054.50	2.1 FICSA July	
2.2 Income from the operations of the Staff Club	500.00	1973/June 1974	720.00
<u>III. Brought Forward from 1972/73</u>		<u>III. Subsidies</u>	
3.1 Net surplus	734.55 ^{1/}	3.1 Staff Club	1,500.00
3.2 Sundry Debtors	279.00 ^{2/}	3.2 Sports Clubs	500.00
3.3 Due from ECA Administration	456.54 ^{2/}	3.3 Staff News and Secretarial Assit.	960.00
		<u>IV. Travel</u>	
		4.1 FICSA Council Mtg.	2,500.00
		4.2 Visits to ECA Sub- regional Offices	400.00
		<u>V. Special Accounts</u>	
		5.1 UN Week Celebrations	200.00
		5.2 Children's Christmas Party	1,000.00
		5.3 Contingencies	400.00
		Sub Total	8,410.00
		<u>VI. Estimated surplus</u>	14.59
Total	<u>8,424.59</u>	Total	<u>8,424.59</u>

- Notes: 1/ Brought forward from 1972/73 UN Week Celebrations Account.
 2/ Portion of the UN Welfare Grant for 1972/73 which was used by ECA Administration.

Chairman

A. Banjo

Treasurer

Wondimu A.

Explanatory note - Expenditure

I. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

- 1.1 Secretary's expenses: This is an estimate intended to cover costs such as stationery and postage.
 1.2 Treasurer's expenses: Estimated cost for purchase of financial record books, stationery, etc.
 1.3 Bank Charge: This amount includes the cost of cheque books.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2.1 FICSA July 1973 - June 1974: The amount Lth. 720.00 is the assessment of the Association's contribution to FICSA as notified from the FICSA Executive Committees in Geneva.

III. SUBSIDIES

- 3.1 Staff Club: This sum is intended to cover costs of materials which will be required by the Staff Club. It also include the salary of the caretaker.
 3.2 Sports Clubs: This amount is earmarked for supporting clubs for outdoor sports.
 3.3 Staff News: This figure is an estimate to cover costs for the production of the Staff News. It also includes costs for secretarial assistance to the Editor and the Hon. Secretary.

IV. TRAVEL

- 4.1 FICSA Council Meeting: This sum is intended to cover costs of travel and per diem for ECA delegation to the Annual Meeting of the FICSA Council during 1974.
 4.2 Visits to ECA Sub-regional Offices: The Staff Council decided that direct personal contacts be made by the Staff Association with staff members in the sub-regional offices. This sum is earmarked for supporting the travel that will be necessary during this year for this purpose.

V. SPECIAL ACCOUNT

- 5.1 UN Week Celebration: It has been decided that the UN Week be organized as a self-financing celebration. This provision here is intended to assist in getting the preliminary activities started during the planning of the celebrations.
 5.2 Children's Christmas Party: This amount is earmarked to cover the cost of holding the annual Children's Christmas Party.