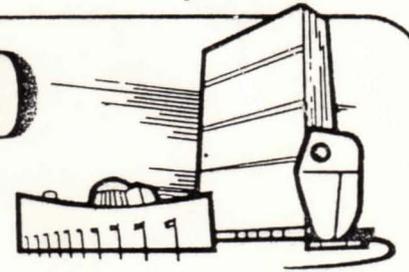


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diplomatic pouch

by Petronius

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's intentions said to be a subject of rising concern in U.N. diplomatic circles in this final year of his five-year term. More and more members, we hear, coming to the reluctant conclusion that perhaps he meant it when he said his first term would also be his last. Frustration over the tendency in key capitals to bypass the United Nations and the organization's financial difficulties could be a factor, some believe, if he decides not to accept re-election.

Who might be his successor? Possibilities mentioned include Paul Lusaka, chief delegate of Zambia who was president of the 39th session of the General Assembly and Olara Ottunu, former chief delegate of Uganda and lately its foreign minister, once considered a serious contender for the succession as the U.N.'s first African secretary general, but his country's seemingly endless problems may have dealt a death blow to his prospects, U.N. observers say.

Soviet Ambassador Oleg Troyanovsky's departure after nine years as permanent representative a real loss for the U.N. Ideology aside, he must be one of the most engaging diplomats on the international scene.

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* [A 32-year-old Portuguese-American from California completed a 3,200-mile run from the coast to the U.N. to mark International Peace Year. The athlete, Bansidhar Medeiros, was welcomed to the U.N. by Portuguese delegate Antonio Monteiro and representatives of Fiji, Grenada and Bangladesh..