



# Secretariat

# NEWS

United Nations Headquarters, New York

16 December 1976



## Season's Greetings

## In Memoriam

### JOSEPH R. DEVLIN

The death of Joseph R. Devlin of a heart attack on 27 November has left a great void in the Office of General Services where he served the UN for more than 30 years.

Originally appointed as a teletype operator, Joe's administrative sense and talents as an organizer were recognized early in this career, leading within a relatively few years to his designation as Assistant Chief, Mail Operations, with supervisory responsibility for some 80 staff members. After further assignments in the administrative field, including an outstandingly effective stint as Secretary of the Headquarters Property Survey Board, he was selected in 1966 to serve as Administrative Officer in the OGS Executive Office, the post he held until his death.

To keep order and momentum in the day-to-day "routine" administration, particularly in personnel matters, of a departmental staff of over 900 people is, in reality, far from a routine task. Every day brings some new variation on the administrative theme, some new wrinkle, some new challenge for solution. Joe, with his vast knowledge of the house and of the OGS staff, met each such challenge with unruffled thoughtfulness and immense common sense. Over the years these qualities, blended with his compassion and his fair-mindedness, enabled him to assist countless fellow staff members - hence, the UN as well - with their problems, whether official or personal. Knowing how much we ourselves shall miss his wisdom and friendship, our hearts go out doubly to his wife, Jeanne, and his two sons, Richard and Michael.

OGS

## In Memoriam

### PHYLLIS KATHRYN BURNS

All her former friends and colleagues will be saddened to learn that Phyllis K. Burns died on 2 December in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after an extended illness. During her years of service Phyllis gave major attention to activities involved in providing technical services for UNICEF-aided programmes in social services. Her warmth and generosity will be remembered by all who knew her.

## Outward bound

JULIAN KUO

Mohican Julian Kuo has left the UN. Although his retirement on 31 October was expected, his friends did not believe that Julian would stick to his vow to leave the building without accepting a farewell party. "I don't want anyone to make a fuss over me," he said. Still, his friends and colleagues are disappointed that they must say farewell to him through the Secretariat News.

Julian was one of the pioneers in the Secretariat. He devoted more than half of his career to the Office of Personnel and the other half to the Office of Technical Co-operation. One rarely finds such an amiable colleague who never looked upon his work as "just another file". He was an

able and considerate staff member, always willing to help his friends and proud to stand up for the highest interests of the Organization.

Julian enlightened those around him with famous Chinese proverbs and quotations from the Chinese classics. Endowed with refinement, charm and gallantry, bachelor Julian was well known in the Secretariat as a "ladies man."

Asia and the Pacific Branch gave a private lunch for Julian at Peng's Restaurant where the ten-course, sumptuous meal was worthy of Julian's high standards as a gourmet. Hammarskjöld by Brian Urquart was his Branch's present to him, Julian said he could not think of a better farewell gift.

We wish him a happy future.

R. K. Basu

## Meditation Group

The annual Christmas Carol Sing-along will take place 1 p.m. on 17 December in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library auditorium.

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The Group's programme in honour of U Thant on 23 November began with a silent meditation led by Sri Chinmoy. U Thant's daughter, Aye Aye, and her husband were present, as well as many staff members. Ambassadors Piero Vinci of Italy and Ole Ålgård of Norway addressed the gathering. Mr. Donald Keys of the World Association of World Federalists brought the tape-recorded voice of U Thant to the audience. This recording had been made at a farewell luncheon when U Thant reiterated his fundamental commitment to the moral and spiritual development of mankind as being as necessary, and often more necessary, than the physical and intellectual progress so prevalent in the Western world.

Mr. Robert Muller, Director and Deputy Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination, also spoke.

Members of the Group acted a scene from "Siddhartha Becomes the Buddha", a play by Sri Chinmoy which U Thant attended in 1974, and a short film about U Thant was shown.

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On 22 November, the Group sponsored its second programme of Gratitude on an International Day of Thanksgiving.

Mr. Waldo Stewart of the Thanksgiving Square Foundation in Dallas, Texas, introduced a film about the Foundation's inter-religious, international place of Gratitude. Haruna Kimura performed a dance of Invocation and Thanksgiving called "Shima no Senzai" in the Kabuki style.

An International Thanksgiving Dinner, catered by Annam Brahma Restaurant, was given that evening in the ex-Press bar.

At the dinner there was a dramatic dance in celebration of Kwanza-First Fruits Festival by the Olatunji Center for African Culture. Delegates from the General Assembly session that was breaking for the evening were drawn by the joyful sounds of drums and came to watch as the dancers drew grateful smiles from the Thanksgiving audience.

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