

UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
RADIO AND VISUAL SERVICES



NATIONS UNIES  
SERVICE DE L'INFORMATION  
RADIO ET MOYENS VISUELS

NACIONES UNIDAS  
SERVICIOS DE INFORMACION PUBLICA  
RADIO E INFORMACION VISUAL  
INTERNATIONAL ZONE

with

Alistair Cooke

UNITED NATIONS DATELINE

The UN is a vast centre of information about politics and technology, human rights and peace-keeping, hunger and plenty. The words "United Nations, N.Y." appear almost daily in thousands of newspapers around the world. This programme takes the viewer into a vital, but rarely-seen part of the UN -- the realm of the "newsmakers". It is a backstage tour with the men and women who get the news, write it, film it, speak it, televise it.

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Director:	Joseph O'Brien
Assistant Director:	Peter Pastorelle
Editor:	Otto Seuffer
Camera:	Marvin Bolotsky
Sound:	Garth Kremer
Supervising Producer:	Ben Park
Executive Producer:	George Movshon

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COOKE, V.O.:

AYUB KHAN ARRIVAL

A head of state comes to the United Nations, the President of Pakistan. Twelve thousand miles away, millions of people want to see the pictures -- hear the words -- read the story.

SUPER TITLES

SHOW THEME

AYUB IN LOBBY

It's an old thought among newspapermen that a baby knocked down in the next block has more news shock than an earthquake on another continent. Even in this age of instant communication it's still true. But what has changed is the way we measure "near" and "far".

PUBLIC LOBBY --  
PICTORIAL SHOT

No member of the U.N. family is ever very far away from here. The United Nations is a great clearing house of all kinds of news. Its business takes in the overthrow of rulers, an outbreak of smallpox in Africa, the price of eggs in China. In the next half-hour you are to be gently immersed in the broth of news-making and news-gathering at the United Nations.

EINAR KVAREN UNDER  
BOAT IN CEYLON

A village in Ceylon...but a United Nations story. Einar Kvaren, who knows about fishing boats, has come from Finland to work here. This will get a couple of inches of column space in Helsinki, maybe a feature story in Colombo.

UNEF SOLDIER ON  
PATROL

Indian soldiers in Gaza prepare to run the gauntlet between two enemies. That's a local paper story in Tel

Aviv, Cairo and Calcutta — unless somebody runs amok and makes the headlines in four continents.

SUGAR AUCTION (SYNCH) BIDDING

A sugar auction — also a UN story...

CU ECONOMIST AND  
WALL STREET JOURNAL

...but you'll read about it only in the Economist and the Wall Street Journal: a shift in the sugar price — something that will change lives in Cuba and Jamaica and East Africa.

WHO AIR SHOT (SHOT  
SHOULD CONTINUE A  
FEW SECONDS AFTER  
COMMENTARY)

This is Geneva, the World Health Organization. One UN story here concerns the approving of new drugs, and the constant watch against the sort of thing that led to the thalidomide disaster.

ROSSIDES ON CYPRUS

(SYNCH) "Two destroyers are now --- as I speak --- bombarding Mansoura Strait..."

SECURITY COUNCIL  
WIDE SHOT

Somehow violence and bad news always make page one. This is a Security Council meeting about a troubled island and a tenuous peace.

TV MASTER CONTROL

SYNCH IN BACKGROUND

COOKE, VO:

"Head of State visits UN, addresses General Assembly, pledges peace..." and a TV commentator struggles to tell the story in the sixty seconds given him by his network.

HOTTELET SEQUENCE  
(WITH TV DIRECTOR'S  
COMMENTS)

HOTTELET (SYNCH): "President Ayub Khan of Pakistan appealed to the UN General Assembly to aid in solving the Kashmir problem in peace and on the basis of self-determination, equality and international morality. At the same time, he re-affirmed Pakistan's policy of co-operation with Communist China, advocating Peking's representation in the UN. There was no prospect of quick UN action or political settlement of the Kashmir dispute, the first tentative steps being taken now are toward military withdrawal from the cease-fire line. The political side is very delicate, as witness this afternoon, when Secretary-General U Thant gave a lunch for Ayub, and Nationalist China, which is present in the Security Council, was not invited because of Pakistan's relations with Peking. Richard C. Hottelet, CBS News, United Nations." "Good, good."

BULLPEN SHOTS

COOKE, VO:

This is the correspondents' working area at the UN and it's known as "the bullpen". This is the hub -- for all the men and women from newspapers, radio stations, TV networks, newsfilm companies, press agencies. This is where they try to cover as many as twenty international conferences in a day; where they dig for what they need to attract the interest of readers, viewers, listeners around the globe. For instance, the Ayub Khan story:

NEW YORK TIMES SHINGLE  
THEN DREW MIDDLETON

MIDDLETON (SYNCH): "...much more conciliatory speech than the sort of thing he's been saying in Rawalpindi at home. In tone, at least. And this emphasis on the daily violations is certainly reflected in the Secretary General's report, the last one we have, which I think is 116 on 14 sectors of the front. So it's rather big stuff, of course. If that thing blows up -- 500 million people at each other's throats -- then we're really in trouble."

VO: "When does your story come out?"

MIDDLETON (SYNCH): "It will go off at about 6:30, I should think. We've got to wait for the text, the usual thing, you're always held up by something, and

this time it's waiting for the text. I don't know whether we'll use it in the paper tomorrow or not. It wasn't a very long speech, we might well be able to."

VO: "Generally, it's what you expected?"

MIDDLETON (SYNCH): "Except more conciliatory in tone and this heavy emphasis on arbitration, which I think will make it have a good effect here. Mike, has that text come up, yet?"

MIKE (SYNCH): "Apparently they're delaying issuance of it."

MIDDLETON (SYNC): "Of what?"

MIKE (SYNCH): "Of the Pakistan text...."

MIDDLETON (SYNCH): "Why?"

MIKE (SYNCH): "Well, because they apparently don't want the Indians to know what's in it."

MIDDLETON (SYNCH): "Well, the Indians heard it. That's ridiculous."

MIKE (SYNCH): "Kathy's calling the mission now, but I paged their press man and he didn't show up."

SCANNING PRESS  
RELEASES

COOKE, VO:

The Santo Domingo cable...the Coffee Report...the UN Statistical Yearbook. They scan the press releases, estimate the likely course of events in Vietnam, the Congo, South Africa. It is to this midway of the news-gatherers that the news-givers sometimes come, with something hot.

FRANK CARPENTER  
HANDS OUT GOLDBERG  
TEXT

(SYNCH) "I have a very few copies of this here, I cannot give it out on a mass basis at this time...Okay, okay, just tell everybody to hold up...We're getting nowhere fast...All right, take it...one apiece...If you got more than one, give it to somebody else."

ACCREDITATION OFFICE --  
KOREAN CORRESPONDENT

COOKE, VO:

He is a newcomer. He has come from a very distant country to live in New York and to write home about those things in the United Nations that are important to his people. He must be accredited. He must be a bona fide professional correspondent, in a recognized news medium.

Accreditation is the act that unlocks information. It opens the door to UN headquarters and to the people who work and speak there.

UNCA CLUB

It opens the way to membership in the United Nations Correspondents' Association, where there are two hundred reporters from all over the world.

BOLAND (SYNCH): "...allegiance only to the United Nations, but we're not in that sort of world yet, I'm afraid..."

COOKE IN PRESS  
GALLERY

COOKE, ON CAMERA

Above all, it ensures a seat in the press gallery, an area set aside in each council chamber for the working press. You see, UN meetings are open to the public -- and that means to the reporters of the world. There are some exceptions, some technical bodies that meet in private. But this world organization was always designed to be a house of glass, an open forum.

By the way, anybody who is assigned here had better know either French or English which are the two principal working languages of the United Nations, though he can follow meetings on these earphones in any of the five official languages.

Now, suppose a man is the sole representative of a remote news agency. Clearly it's impossible for him to be able to keep up with everything that's happening here. This is a place where things happen simultaneously. In one council or committee room, you might have Rhodesia; in another one, the law of the sea; somewhere else, the Congo disarmament. A man struggling to cover all these things can only be in one place at once. And he needs help.

COUNCIL

(SYNCH) "The Armed forces of one party of the territory of the other party..."

BEVAN AT COUNCIL  
TABLE

COOKE, VO:

He gets it. From the UN's own press services. This man is a UN press officer and his own running account of a meeting — about as impartial as such a thing can ever be — will be available to correspondents half an hour or so after it's over.

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTION

Correspondents will find this in press release number SC 2797, take 3, on the document shelves in the bullpen area. Nearby are other documents on the story.

PUBLIC ADDRESS  
ANNOUNCEMENT

(SYNCH) "Your attention, please. For those correspondents who are interested, a press officer is now in the third floor Press area to read out the United Kingdom amendment just submitted in the first committee. I repeat, for those correspondents who are interested, a press officer is now in the third floor press area to read out the United Kingdom..."

BULLPEN — BEVAN  
BRIEFS

COOKE, VO:

Inevitably there are times when the news can't wait for the release to appear. That's when you have an informal briefing.

BEVAN (SYNCH): "...Shall I just read out one of the important ones?... The new U.K. one would read, 'Convinced that respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination...'"

COOKE, VO:

That's one kind of briefing, a word that can cover a knot of four people in a corridor or a well-ordered meeting of sixty in the correspondents' meeting room. The man in the Chair can be the UN's own press officer...

BRIEFING ROOM  
BILL POWELL

(SYNCH) "...this afternoon, and you will also note that the Special Political Committee is completing its ten meetings on Apartheid this morning and will return to the question of peace-keeping operations at three o'clock this afternoon..."

COOKE, VO:

...Or the information officer of the British Delegation...

SQUIRES

(SYNCH) "The decision, the only decision, was at the beginning of the year, that, pending a resolution of Article 19, countries would be asked to continue their contributions on a voluntary basis, 80 per cent of the previous year's level. That is embodied in a resolution to the Assembly."

COOKE, VO:

...Or the press attaché of the USSR Delegation...

ALDOSIAN

(SYNCH) "You know, it's our belief, you know, that the present application is one more step, one more positive step, towards the solution of the question of German reunification. I guess it's laid down quite explicitly in the memoranda of that subject..."

COOKE, VO:

And generally, at 12:30, the United States press officer...

FRANK CARPENTER

(SYNCH) "Under-Secretary George Ball is paying us a call today. He attended the delegation meeting; took part in the discussions of the delegation meeting; has been down to the First Committee where he's listening to the debate on somebody's idea of intervention; and is now with the Secretary-General on what is officially described as a courtesy call. I don't expect to have anything more on it..." "...Sir?"... "Subject?" "Courtesy call. 'How are you, Mr. Secretary-General?' 'How are you, Mr. Secretary?...' It may run about an hour..." LAUGHTER.

COOKE, VO:

GEORGE BALL SEQUENCES

There's something about this visit -- a high Washington official conferring with U Thant -- that tantalizes the bullpen. There's a story here somewhere. Could be about Vietnam. Could be about the U.N.'s money troubles. Could be Rhodesia... Let's try to find out.

BALL SEQUENCE  
MACVANE AT DESK

MACVANE (SYNCH): "I think that this whole series of visits by the Assistant Secretaries and so forth means that there is some new thing going on in this Vietnam situation..."

MUNN (SYNCH): "...I think if the Secretary-General has something to say, he'll say it to Goldberg. That's the man he sees every day; why should he say it to somebody who comes up from Washington, who is after all ranked by Goldberg, who is here all the time? It doesn't make any sense."

JHABVALA

(SYNCH) "Well, yes, you don't think he's going to come here from Washington for nothing. It's Vietnam."

ALISTAIR COOKE AT  
TYPEWRITER

(SYNCH) We never did find out what George Ball's visit was all about. Sometimes you have to do a lot of digging for a very small crop.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

CONFERENCE ROOM 4

COOKE, VO:

CONFERENCE ROOM 4 --  
GENERAL SHOTS

A newsman's work is a continual and continuous search for the trends, the facts, the possibilities. Every now and again he goes into a UN conference room and he takes a seat normally allotted to a delegate -- for we live in the age of the press conference...

QUESTION MONTAGE  
VARIOUS CUS

(SYNCH) "...Are you trying to suggest that the talks should be reopened for fresh negotiations..."

"...Do you still hold to your belief in what you found out in the light of..."

"...Can you see any possibility of the UN playing a more important..."

"...Would you care to comment on the importance..."

"...conditions on the presence of the Viet Cong..."

"...United States would be amenable..."

"What distinction do you make with implied negotiations without any prior commitments whatsoever..."

QUESTIONERS, CONT'D

"Do you have anything specific in mind, any specific organ or any specific action..."

"Are you willing to negotiate or discuss the question of representation with the Viet Cong..."

"...especially considering the resolution..."

"Do you know whether as a result of this renewed diplomatic activity, the point of view of the United States..."

LS, PRESS CONFERENCE

COOKE, VO:

These questions get answered, or they get evaded, with varying degrees of subtlety. Sometimes the answers are hedged around with limits, like "off the record", "not for attribution", "not for quotation". "No comment." Some newspapers, TV networks, press agencies, are in competition with each other. These men must sometimes venture on unsure ground. It's important to be first. It is better to be right.

U THANT ENTERS  
CONFERENCE ROOM

Perhaps half a dozen times a year U Thant meets the UN press corps in an open news conference...

SG STATEMENT

U THANT (SYNCH): "Whether you assess the situation in Vietnam or Syria or Ghana or Indonesia or elsewhere, I think historians may draw one conclusion: that nationalism, more than any political beliefs or political ideologies or political convictions is the most potent force in the life of a people. Yes, Miss Fredericks?"

FREDERICKS QUESTION

(SYNCH) "Mr. Secretary-General, to what extent do you believe the war in Vietnam has become a contest for strategic position among the United States, China and the Soviet Union?"

SG ANSWER

(SYNCH) "I have all along believed that Vietnam can be an independent and non-aligned country as it was

envisaged in the Geneva agreements of 1954. Of course, when I say independent and non-aligned, it should be preferably guaranteed by the big powers, including, of course, Peking and Washington. That has been my approach to this problem for the last eleven years. I believed all along that Vietnam could be made an independent and non-aligned country."

CONFERENCE BREAKS UP  
CORRESPONDENTS LEAVE  
ROOM

COOKE, VO:

Now you write the story. It's worth six hundred words to the London Times, half a column to Pravda, three inches to the Tokyo Shimbun, and two minutes (now being rehearsed), for the evening news service of Radiotelevisione Italiana...

ORLANDO AT CAMERA

(SYNCH) "...Okay, Ruggiero, let's run through this, let's do it now..."

ORLANDO DESPATCH

(ITALIAN, SYNCH)

SAM QUAICO TYPING

COOKE, VO:

"PRESS GHANA NEWS ACCRA SECGEN UTHANT DECLARED TODAY VIETNAM SETTLEMENT REQUIRES FACE TO FACE MEETING OF PARTIES ACTUALLY FIGHTING IN WAR..."

PETER SCHROEDER ON  
PHONE

The correspondent of the Dutch Radio phones in a story...

TALKS

(SYNCH, DUTCH)

PRENSA LATINA MAN  
CHECKS COPY

VO:

"PRENSA LATINA HAVANA. UTHANT DIJO HOY QUE ARREGLO VIETNAM SOLO PRODUCIRARSE SI TODOS PARTES SE REUNEN..."

KESHISIAN PHONES  
MISSION

(SYNCH) "...Is that the Kuwait Mission? Doris, could you give me Ambassador Rashid, please..."

COOKE, VO:

A Middle East correspondent checks the view of one of the Delegations.

(SYNCH) (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) "...he wants the bombing to stop immediately, that's his condition..."

(CONTINUES IN ARABIC)

TYPEWRITER MONTAGE      SOUND

MONTAGE OF DOOR      SOUND

SIGNS

JHABVALA IN OFFICE  
TELEPHONES

(SYNCH, ETC.) (ENTIRE WILSON STORY) "Kurt, this is Darius. How are you, sir? O.K. pal, are we all set? This is a fairly long one. It is for the cable desk. It is to be slugged 'Wilson dash Jhabvala, para: African delegations to the United Nations yesterday pointedly snubbed British Prime Minister Harold Wilson by walking out of the General Assembly just before he began his address.

JHABVALA/WILSON  
SEQUENCE  
(WITH CUT-INS)

"Twenty-five of the thirty-six African delegates and their staff walked out en masse from the blue and gold Assembly chamber to demonstrate their disapproval of British policy in Rhodesia. Para. This was the first deliberate walkout by a group of states when a head of government had addressed the Assembly. Para. Mr. Wilson paused at the podium till the last delegate left. He once again ruled out the use of military force to bring to an end the rebellion of the white settler regime of Ian Smith and appealed for support to the Economic and Financial embargoes already implemented against Rhodesia. Para. Quote: 'I beseech this...

(FLASHBACK)

WILSON AT PODIUM

'I beseech this assembly to give us time to deal with this situation... I have made it clear that in this task to which we have set our hands, there will be no turning back...'" (CONTINUES BG)

TV CONTROL

(CROSS TALK)...

(MASTER CONTROL ROOM)

"...No, no, not tight; I want you to pan across... Hold it at that distance and then pan R... Hold it, take 2..."

JHABVALA

"As soon as Mr. Wilson came into the U.N. yesterday morning, he held brief conferences with Secretary-General U Thant, and then Assembly President, Amintore Fanfani. Amintore is A-m-i-n-t-o-r-e, Fanfani -- F-a-n-f-a-n-i. No: F as in 'Fanny'. Algerian Ambassador Tewfik Bouattoura: Tewfik is T-e-w-f-i-k. Bouattoura, B-o-u-a-t-t-o-u-r-a, later stated that the decision to demonstrate was taken at an African group meeting earlier this week so as to, quote, show our opposition to the stand taken by the British government in Rhodesia, close quote. Para. However Liberian Ambassador, Nathan Barnes -- Nathan as in Nathan Delicatessen, and Barnes, B-a-r-n-e-s -- opposed the decision on the grounds that, quote, no useful purpose is served, close quote, and further argued that the Africans, quote, should hear what Mr. Wilson has to say, period close quote."

FLASHBACK:

BARNES AND JHABVALA

(SYNCH) "...there is difference between us and the British government with regard to looking upon this rebellion as illegal... or, rather, on looking upon this as a rebellion...this rebellion would be crushed..."

JHABVALA

"After his speech Mr. Wilson hurried back to the Waldorf Astoria for a private meeting with Mr. Goldberg and then returned to the United Nations for a luncheon given by Secretary-General U Thant."

"That's it, Kurt. Hello...that's it, old fellow...it's a long one, sorry, but this is how it goes today.

"Yeah, okay, Kurt...okay pal."

JHABVALA RISES,  
PUTS ON COAT,  
LEAVES OFFICE

WALKS ALONG CORRIDOR, SUPER CREDITS  
DOWN ESCALATOR

EXTERIOR, UN  
BUILDING

COOKE, VO:

Long ago in its very first session the General Assembly declared: "The United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities."

You have seen some of the ways in which that work is  
done.

PAN UP TO UN  
BUILDING

SUPER: "PRODUCED BY  
UNITED NATIONS  
TELEVISION"

FADE TO BLACK

FADE OUT