UN INTERVIEW
Pauline Frederick
July 11, 1986
Interviewers: Norman Ho
and Leanore Silvian

Table of Contents

Bokhari 33, 34
Broadcast on Hammarskjold's Death 1
Charter 14
China 4
Congo 4, 6, 17, 23, 28
Feller, Abe 12
de Gaulle, Charles 9
Jacobsen, Max 19
Lie, Trygve 11, 12, 26, 36
Lodge, Henry Cabot 12
"Man Against Fear" 6
Markings 2
McCarthy Era 12, 13, 26
Meditation Room 3, 10
Narasimhan, C.V. 8
Papadoquino, G. 23, 24
Release of US Flyers 4
Ridder of Times of London 30
Rockefeller Family 29
Small Nation Representation 14-17
Soviet Union 4, 6, 7, 12, 17, 19, 20, 23
Stevenson, Adlai 13
Thant, U 9, 29
"Together" Article by Hammarskjold 5
"Triad" 15
UN Communications 11
UN Correspondence Association 21, 32
UNEF 3, 22
UN Press Desk 25
Waldheim, Kurt 8, 9, 19, 20, 21, 29
HQ: Thank you, and now, would you care to make any comments, twenty-five years after that broadcasted?

FREDERICK: Yes, looking back on the United Nations since Dag Hammarskjöld's death, I would say that Hammarskjöld's greatest fault was his dedication to finding the answer to what he believed was man's greatest prayer, which asks not for victory, but for peace. In a day when victory is still our goal, even though there can be no victory, this peacemaker was sacrificed. And so will the UN be one of these days, on the altar of military might, until there is acceptance by all that the salvation of the Nuclear Age lies on the conference table, not on the battlefield.

HQ: Some months after Hammarskjöld's death, you were asked by the editor of a magazine in Sweden to write an article which would attempt to "throw light, not just on the public servant, but on the man himself, during the last days . . ."

SILVIAN: Going back to what you were saying, don't you think it was quite a remarkable thing that the new Secretary-General did in getting Spain and--was it Spain and France together, just last week?

HQ: Yes, but we don't want to bring him into it, do we?
SILVIAN: No, but I mean, I was absolutely startled and amazed that he had been able to achieve this sort of thing. That was not what you were getting with Waldheim, or anything that you've been getting in the last--

HQ: No, but this interview is about Dag Hammarskjöld.

SILVIAN: I know, but are you not contrasting him with other Secretaries-General, or not?

FREDERICK: Well, since I don't know the present one, personally, I don't feel that I can comment on him very well.

SILVIAN: Very good, I think that makes sense.

HQ: Well, let's get back, I think to the original . . . Some months after Hammarskjöld's death, you were asked the editor of a magazine in Sweden to write an article which would attempt to "throw light, not on just the public servant, but on the man himself, during the last days, weeks, and months of his life." I haven't seen the published article among your papers, but can you tell us what the gist of it was?

FREDERICK: What I tried to say was that Dag Hammarskjöld was a very different person from the one known publicly. And, one of his great differences was that he was a very religious person, almost a mystic. That, of course, came out later in his book . . . called Markings. . . . Dag Hammarskjöld . . .

SILVIAN: He wasn't religious in that he subscribed to any . . . organized religion, was he?
FREDERICK: No. . . . He was not religious in the sense of belonging to some creed, or church. His was more a universal kind of human brotherhood religion. And he brought it to bear on his concept of the Meditation Room at the United Nations, which we've already talked about.

HQ: We must soon bring this interview to a close, and I should like to ask you some questions of a more general nature. How would you evaluate Dag Hammarskjöld in his role as Secretary-General of the United Nations?

FREDERICK: Dag Hammarskjöld is identified more with the United Nations, probably, than any other Secretary-General. He was a leader, and . . . he gave the UN a role in peace-making, as well as in peace-keeping. And many of his initiatives in those two areas have lasted over until this day, although they haven't been carried out completely.

HQ: What were some of his most valuable, or significant contributions to the Organization?

FREDERICK: Well, in peace-making, he had a major role in trying to restore order to the Middle East, during that period. And in peace-keeping, he had the distinction of helping to originate the UNEF operation, which separated Israel and Egypt, the military forces of Israel and Egypt. UNEF, United Nations Emergency Force, which was the first big peace-keeping operation of the United Nations, and set a standard for others.

HQ: But, I mean, what do you personally most remember Hammarskjöld for?
FREDERICK: I remember him very much as a man who had apparent solutions to many problems, not complete solutions, but at least, knew how to move them off dead center, where a conflict was brewing. And that goes for many of the issues after he went to China, to gain release of the American flyers. That was unique for a Secretary-General, and after that, it seemed to me that we all expected him to do something about any of the major conflicts that were raging. And he did try. He wasn't always successful, but he did try.

HO: How do you think the United Nations might have progressed differently if Hammarskjöld had lived on to serve one or more additional terms?

FREDERICK: I don't think Hammarskjöld would have had another term, because the Soviet Union was already dead set against his staying in that office. He had turned out to be more than an administrative officer. He had taken the lead in trying to resolve some of the big problems before the world. And, as a consequence, the Soviet Union didn't want anything to do with him, particularly after the Congo, when they felt that he was siding with the United States in the Congo, and trying to keep the Soviet Union out.

HO: As a final question, I would like you to read parts of the broadcast which you made for the NBC Radio Network, on 17 September 1962, just one year after Hammarskjöld died.

FREDERICK: I said at the time, "One year has passed. In a tree-shaded churchyard in the old university town of Upsala, Sweden, a simple granite headstone marks the resting place of a famous son between his parents, brooded over by a great slab, with the one word, 'Hammarskjöld', engraved on it. There are always flowers on the grave, frequently a single white rose."
Sometimes a yellow rose, sometimes three yellow ones tied together. Trees, blossoms of every season. In the distance is the red turreted castle where Dag Hammarskjöld grew up, and the university he attended, and the cathedral from which he was buried, and the tombs of the Viking kings. Another man will sit in the once vacant chair in the Assembly podium. But this is the day of remembrance. After Dag Hammarskjöld's death, I received a copy of what must have been one of his last writings. It appeared in the magazine 'Together', a publication for Methodist families. What he wrote then is as pertinent for today, will be for many years to come. Here are Dag Hammarskjöld's words:

"The work for peace must be animated by tolerance," Dag Hammarskjöld said, "and the work for human right, by the respect for the individual." "To some, the word 'tolerance' may sound strange in a time of Cold War, and negotiations from positions of strength. It may have an overtone of weakness or appeasement, and yet, have we reason to believe," asked Hammarskjöld rhetorically, "that what was there in the past is no longer true? It is not the weak, but the strong who practice tolerance, and the strong do not weaken their position in showing tolerance. On the contrary, only through tolerance can they justify their strength in the face of these counteracting forces that their own strength sets in motion." "This holds true of all those in the present world situation who may be, or consider themselves to be strong," Dag Hammarskjöld said, "be it the industrialized West, in relation to the underdeveloped countries, be it the Powers whose military resources give them key positions, or be it those who have achieved a state of democracy toward which others are still groping." And he went on, "Heaven arms with pity those whom it would not see destroy. Over the ages and over the continents, these words join in those of solaced, 'There is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared.'" The words of Dag Hammarskjöld on this Memorial Day.
HO: Thank you very much, Pauline.

(Informal Interview Begins)

HO: OK, so now, what are we going to talk about informally?

FREDERICK: Well, I suppose we want to talk about the characteristics of Dag Hammarskjöld, and what sort of a legacy he left at the UN.

HO: Yes. Well, what about the characteristics of Dag Hammarskjöld, first, before the legacy?

FREDERICK: Well, I once did a ... little piece about him, which I called "Man Against Fear," because, it seemed to me that, of all things, Dag Hammarskjöld was courageous in taking positions. And, if he hadn't been, he wouldn't have gotten into trouble with the Soviet Union, over the Congo. But he was very courageous because he thought it was only right that the Congo should be saved for the future, and therefore, it was necessary to send in the United Nations troops.

HO: Yes. So far you've talked about courage, but there are a number of other qualities besides. I would say there is integrity, is an important one, and intelligence, to the point of brilliance. What about some of those other attributes?

FREDERICK: I think you have summed them up very nicely in that Dag
Hammarskjöld had a super intelligence, and he was a man of great integrity. It would be difficult to believe that he did anything underhanded, in that trying to bring nations together to try to solve some of these problems . . . and that because of the fact that he was strong and courageous, and as he once told me, got out in front where he knew he'd be a target. That was the reason why he incurred the dislike of the Soviet Union, and their effort to try to unseat him as Secretary-General.

**HO:** Lee, do you have anything to ask on this particular issue?

**SILVIAN:** I, unfortunately, have met never the gentleman, but he does seem to have stood out among all the Secretaries-General, and yet, he must have been a very difficult man as far as a reporter is concerned.

**FREDERICK:** Oh, exceedingly so. I said to him one day, "You know Mr. Secretary-General, if you would only take a strong stand on some of these controversial issues that are coming up, you'd give us reporters something to do, we'd be able to report." And he said, "Well, I feel this way: that I'm like the parents of a wayward son, who do not scold the son while he is in the midst of the crisis, but wait until that passes, and before he gets involved in another one, they try to reason with him, and explain the facts of life." . . . And I asked, "Well how does a bachelor know about these things?" And he said, "But I have nieces and nephews."

**SILVIAN:** And didn't he also always refer to the UN as his family?

**FREDERICK:** He referred to the UN as "this House", and gave it a family connotation everytime he had a chance, especially in his speeches.
SILVIAN: And then, also I heard you say something about his temper. If this is the man who preserved his cool in diplomatic relations, but he had to blow off steam occasionally. And who were the targets of that temper? His closest aides?

FREDERICK: I don't know.

HO: I don't think you could say "targets" of the temper, because the temper must have directed at against . . . other people besides his aides. But I know that he must have had people that he could, sort of, unload, and Pauline you probably could remember better than I some of the people, certainly those next to him, like Cordier, and Brian Urquhart, and of course, Ralph Bunche--

FREDERICK: --the Indian, what was his name?--Narsimhan.

HO: Oh, Narsimhan. Yes, C.V. Narsimhan.

FREDERICK: He had difficulty with him, didn't he?

HO: Well, I don't know that you can say that C.V. had difficulty with Hammarskjöld, but I think that he was probably one of the people to whom Hammarskjöld was able to speak. But again, I say, it not be unloading his temper against them.

SILVIAN: But just blowing off steam for a particular situation.

HO: Yes. In stark contrast to Kurt Waldheim, who was known to have terrible
temper tantrums, and well, we won't go into that for the purposes of this.

**FREDERICK:** Well, I was thinking that, whether he sounded off toward General de Gaulle or not, he and General de Gaulle did not see eye to eye on Algeria. And I would assume that some place along the line, some hot words were traded there. And De Gaulle was the only head of state who didn't send condolences to the UN at the time of Dag Hammarskjöld's death.

**HO:** Well, de Gaulle was known to be a character in his own right, but I think that what we are trying to talk about is Hammarskjöld, who was not simply a character, but a character who . . . kept his own personal feelings down within a much larger discipline, in which he was constantly of aware of the needs and welfare of other people, other interests. I think he was a self-sacrificing man.

**SILVIAN:** Well, he sounds more saintly, from what I'm hearing. Would you go that far? That he really believed and--

**HO:** Well, I think that would be unfair to him, but he was certainly absolutely unusual.

**FREDERICK:** You could say that he was a mystic, if you want to go that far, in the religious connation.

**HO:** And U Thant used to pride himself on being a mystic. And, U Thant was another Secretary-General, whose personal integrity was not questioned.

**FREDERICK:** That's right. And he meditated everyday, as a Buddhist.
SILVIAN: Did Hammarskjöld go down to the Meditation Room frequently, for a moment of solace, or anything?

FREDERICK: I don't whether he did alone or not

HO: No, but there's one episode that you described earlier, where he went down at two o'clock in the morning and all his close colleagues thought that he wanted to go down to meditate, or something like that. Whereas, it turned out that—he always took a very close . . . supervision of the creation of Meditation Room. It was his own creation. It turned out that, when they got down to the Meditation Room at two o'clock that morning, they found that he had a crew of painters at work, and then, Pauline told us about he did, about supervising the painting.

SILVIAN: But they had all-night crews at the UN, is that it?

HO: No. There are certain services of the UN that are supposed to working at all times. The Security Council, for example, is supposed to available, twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five, or sixty-six days a year. So the Security Council is in continuous session. Now, when it's necessary, the UN people, at all levels, are supposed to be at the disposal of the Secretary-General, twenty-four hours a day.

SILVIAN: But I assume the cleaning crews normally work at night, is that right?

HO: Oh, yes. It's done for reasons of economy and so forth, it's the best
way possible. But there are always times, and exigences of circumstances, which may require people to work at odd hours.

FREDERICK: Norman, the Cable Office would be running all night, wouldn't it?

HO: Oh yes, of course. Not only the Cable Office at Headquarters, but all the multitudinous UN communications installations all over the world. It's all on a twenty-four hour-a-day basis.

FREDERICK: And especially when the Secretary-General would be away.

HO: When the Secretary-General was away, he always kept in close contact. And I think this the practice of all the Secretaries-General, with Headquarters.

SILVIAN: Am I wrong, but, didn't that terrible incident where at point the US had insisted on having security clearance of all its people at the UN, do you remember?

FREDERICK: Yes indeed I remember.

SILVIAN: And Lie apparently had gone along with it. And, did Hammarskjöld do anything about reversing that?

FREDERICK: No, it didn't have to be reversed, as far as I know. It was just an incident that the United States permitted its police force to enter the UN, which was supposed to be a--
FREDERICK: --supposed to be a secure enclave, not to be violated by any of the nations. But, it was Henry Cabot Lodge that went into the United Nations to check on American employees to make sure they were loyal to the United States Government.

HO: What happened, as I recall, was that, and I remember because there was a meeting of the Staff Association at the time. It was Trygve Lie who had given permission to the United States authorities, the FBI I think it was, to conduct their investigations and their interrogations of American staff members right on the premises of the United Nations. This gave rise to a certain amount of indignation among the staff, non-Americans, as well as the Americans.

FREDERICK: Yes, and one member of the staff committed suicide over it, didn't he?

HO: Yes. That was Abe Feller, the Chief Legal Counsel. We don't know officially why he committed suicide, but it seems fairly obvious that this terrible situation which had been fomented by McCarthy, and his supporters.

FREDERICK: This intrusion into the United Nations was so unique that it never happened before or since, as far as I know, but curiously enough, the Soviet Union, as far as I know, did not make any complaint about it, did it?

HO: I'm not quite sure what you mean, the Soviet Union has not made any complaint about what?
SILVIAN: About the invading the—

FREDERICK: --the American FBI going in.

HO: I can't remember anything official. But then perhaps, they would like would to do the same thing themselves.

FREDERICK: Maybe they were already there. (laughter)

SILVIAN: I'm curious to—wonder why you think that the UN is no longer held in such high regards?

FREDERICK: Well, I tell you. Adlai Stevenson said, when he was ambassador, that if the UN was not in existence, it would have to be invented. But I think Stevenson was thinking about the UN as it should have been, and was meant to be, rather than what it is. He didn't foresee the helplessness of the Organization in trying to deal with international conflicts, or threatened conflicts. It, of course, has become a valuable world hall, as contrasted with town hall, where each nation has a right, and does, speak its peace. But, until, if ever, nations agree to forego their emphasis on their own sovereignty, to the detriment of the solution of international problems, the UN will never be—achieve what it was meant to be. And that is, to try to solve some of the conflicts on the conference table instead of on the battlefield.

SILVIAN: Well, you still feel that it will go on? But also, it seemed to me that the nations were sending more highly respected people to represent them
at the UN in the old days, than they are now. It seemed to me that some of the best men were going, the best men or women.

FREDERICK: Well, that's perfectly true, Lee. And frequently, the head of the delegation would be a Foreign Minister. And, if he wasn't . . . at the head of the delegation then, it wouldn't be long before having served as Foreign Minister, he came as head delegate to the UN. So there were outstanding personalities at the UN in those days.

HQ: Well, you have to remember that in those days, there were only fifty-one Members of the United Nations, and it was immediately following the Second World War, when so many people were hopeful that the world could achieve some of the aims and purposes of the United Nations, as expressed in the Charter. The Charter herself stands, but the enthusiasm about the United Nations, not only on the part of people who work for the UN, as been diluted by the tremendous increase in size of the Organization, both in Membership, and in the size of the staff. The Secretariat of the United Nations now is feeling that problem, because of budgetary difficulties.

SILVIAN: All the countries have to be represented, but is there any way that either of you can think of that they can be more effective, even though they are so large in Membership?

FREDERICK: Well, there's a great deal of criticism on the part of Americans who don't understand what the UN is all about. Criticism to the effect that, these little nations like Zambia, and Cyprus, and so on, have one vote, along with the United States, one vote, so that anything you tried to right that wrong, would raise a huge howl of some kind, because everybody wants to have
an equal voice, just as they do in the House of Representatives.

SILVIAN: Well, have you any suggestions on what they might do?

FREDERICK: I haven't any, but I know that one suggestion going around is called the "Triad", which is supposed to be an effort to get all votes--

HQ: As distinct from the "Troika". (laughter)

FREDERICK: That's right, which is what the Russians wanted to put in after Dag Hammarskjöld's death, and even before his death. But, the "Triad" is supposed to try to count votes in the General Assembly on the basis of population and economic strength, and so on, so that the little nations wouldn't get the same kind of vote that United States and the Soviet Union would have.

SILVIAN: What do you think of that?

FREDERICK: I don't think it will work.

HQ: Well, in any case, the little nations don't have the same kind of vote as the United States and the Soviet Union, plus the three other Permanent Members of the Security Council. That difference in vote was considered, at the beginning, to be necessary in order to compensate for the enormous differences in size, power, and wealth of the Member Nations. And that was when the membership of the UN was less than one third of what it is now... Well, I think we're wandering away from Hammarskjöld.
SILVIAN: Well, did Hammarskjöld ever talk about having such a large ... membership?

FREDERICK: I don't recall that he did, because he wouldn't have attacked the small nations, and they were the ones that really made up the overbalance of power.

HO: In the very beginning, you know, countries smaller than some of our present Member States, who applied for membership, like Monaco, and the—

FREDERICK: Holy See.

HO: The Holy See is another one, but that's not quite the same as the small States like Monaco, and Lichtenstein, and Andorra. ... They did apply for membership, but they were rejected, on the grounds that they were too small. Now, of course—

SILVIAN: Aren't they in now?

HO: No.

SILVIAN: They don't like to be twice spurned, is that it?

FREDERICK: I don't know what the answer is to this problem. I'm not sure
that it's a problem, it just means that if the small nations don't want something to pass in the General Assembly, they can stack up the votes against it.

HQ: Pauline, to get us back to Hammarskjöld, what do you think Hammarskjöld might do about the United Nations and its present unhappy state of affairs if he were here, and could do something about it?

FREDERICK: Well, all I can say is that, one time, when he talking about the Russians, Soviet Union, he said his greatest regret was that he wasn't able to do anything about the attitude of the Soviet Union, and . . . Secretary-General Hammarskjöld is said to have had one deep regret about the crisis between the United States and the Soviet Union over the Congo. And that was the Soviet Union's break in relations with him, had denied him any opportunity to try do something about this situation.

SILVIAN: I didn't quite understand, why were the Russians so angry with him over the Congo?

FREDERICK: Because they wanted to get a foothold in Africa, and particularly in the Congo, because of the so rich Katanga. And as a matter of fact, they backed Lumumba and Tshombe in the Katanga.

HQ: Except that the part of the Congo which they actually went into was the Northern part, Stanleyville and so forth. But, they were interested in the Congo as a whole.

SILVIAN: Then they were willing to have an unholy alliance with the Union
Munier... then, is that right?

FREDERICK: I think so.

HO: I'm not sure about that.

SILVIAN: Well, because they were the major interests in there, were they not?

HO: But there were so many other powers, including the United States, I think which had kind of an unholy alliance—

FREDERICK: But I remember hearing that Dag Hammarskjöld said that he wanted to be sure that communism was kept out of the Congo. And that would mean he'd have to side with the United States. And the United States was using him for a while, wouldn't you say?

HO: Well, yes. Certainly, Hammarskjöld's great fear was that the Congo would become the theatre of confrontation between the forces that were of allegiance to the United States and the Soviet Union, and that could have led direct conflict between the two great super-Powers.

FREDERICK: And especially in Africa, which was very dangerous.

HO: Well, I'm sorry, I interrupted you, or rather Lee interrupted you, but--

SILVIAN: I did? (laughter)

FREDERICK: Well you see how much Dag Hammarskjöld depended on private
diplomacy, and quiet diplomacy, whichever you want to call it, because he said that he did not have an opportunity to try to work out this Big Power crisis, and that was one of his great regrets. And he couldn't talk to the Russians in particular, because they had decided they weren't going to recognize him anymore, in order to try and get him out of office before he was killed.

SILVIAN: So, how did they get together on Waldheim, and after?

FREDERICK: The Security Council got together on Waldheim. . . . I think he was one of two candidates; the other one was from Finland. . . . Max Jacobsen, wasn't it?

HQ: (correcting her pronunciation) Max Jacobsen.

FREDERICK: Max Jacobsen, who was Foreign Minister of Finland. He was the other candidate.

HQ: Who would have made a wonderful Secretary-General.

FREDERICK: Yes, but the United States and the Soviet Union fixed on Kurt Waldheim. As a consequence, there was no major opposition to him in the Security Council.

SILVIAN: Why do you think they favored him?

HQ: Excuse me, there was opposition to him—major. I understand that in the secret ballots, which the Security Council takes on such matters, that for thirteen ballots, both the United Kingdom and China, as Permanent Members,
voted against Waldheim. And so, there was considerable opposition. And, I
don't know what made them both cave in, but it was when they both caved in
that Hammarskjöld in fact—and when he was up for re-election, he failed the
last time, because only one Permanent Member of the Security Council refused
to go along with him, and that was China.

SILVIAN: Why do you suppose both the United States and Russia favored
Waldheim's candidacy?

FREDERICK: Well, there are all kinds of rumors about. Who knows? I don't
know anything at first hand.

HO: Well here again I think we're wandering away from our subject, which was
Hammarskjöld.

SILVIAN: Well, but I think it shows how it's almost an accident when you get
a completely neutral man who is named the Secretary-General.

HO: Well, it's an extremely difficult—as Pauline explained to us earlier,
the requirement of the concurring votes of all five--

SILVIAN: Security Council Members--

HO: But largely the super-Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. I
think Waldheim was a rare, and hopefully, a largely rare occurrence.

SILVIAN: Well, they'll probably strike all that, I should think. But you
were talking freely before, and you both said that you felt that both the
United States and Russia were aware of Waldheim's background.

HO: Well, that's speculation.

SILVIAN: Well, what is the speculation?

FREDERICK: Aware of his background, and therefore they could control him better... That's what Norman said. Now, I'm not surprised at that. I can see that's possible. But I don't have anything at first hand, and I don't like to put it on tape, unless I do.

SILVIAN: OK. It took you a long time really, not a long time, but, until Hammarskjöld intervened and offered to go to China to try to release the flyers. But, prior to that time, had you had much occasion to be with him, or did—the great respect that you had for him seemed to have begun with the China situation. was that true?

FREDERICK: I was very surprised and pleased that he would take that initiative. But my association with him was warmer and more frequent when I became President of the UN Correspondence Association. That was 1958.

HO: Yes, I remember, because you mentioned about how, when there were formal stag dinners, you would be the only woman present in your capacity as the President of the Correspondence Association, and it was your duty then to act as a pool correspondent in such affairs. But I think there was a very unusual guide, I don't recall any other piece—certainly not that early in Hammarskjöld's career—where he was as close as he was with you. I refer to the time when he was flying out to Egypt to accompany the first contingent of
the United Nations Emergency Force. And you were on the same plane with him from New York to Italy, and--

SILVIAN: Were you the only correspondent on the plane?

FREDERICK: Yes.

HQ: Did you know that he was going to be on the plane?

FREDERICK: Oh, yes. The NBC people called be the night before and told me what plane he was going to be on, and said I must get on that plane. So, I talked to some of his aides and they were all sort of aghast that there'd be a correspondent on the plane. But finally, they said it was OK, and I got my ticket, and got on.

HQ: Yes, but, then I understand that, at one point, you were in the seat next to him, and you had a chance to talk with him.

FREDERICK: Yes, well we talked a bit that night, early in the morning, because it was quite late when he came aboard, and ... I had a chance to talk with Bill Renallo, his bodyguard, and another man who was with him. And, we talked a bit, and we reached Rome. The Secretary-General sent me a little note saying that he was sorry to cause me any difficulty in getting a story, but he wondered if we couldn't sip some brandy and sort of, talk. And then he told me the story of a man who had given up his berth on the plane so Dag Hammarskjöld could rest that night, and how kind he thought it was. And then I was able to obtain, in the next few days, the little note that he had sent to the daughter of this man to thank her for her ... father's generosity.
And . . . I said, "What kind of a man do you think Dag Hammarskjöld is?" And she said, "I think he's the kind of man we need to make peace."

HO: Yes. Well, that's that same trip . . . when you were able to see Dag Hammarskjöld, and I understand that you took one leg of the journey—he was on his way to the UN military staging area.

FREDERICK: That's right, around Naples.

HO: It is, it's Papadoquino(?), I think. But you had a chance to ride with him in the next seat.

FREDERICK: That's right.

HO: And what did you talk about?

FREDERICK: Well, we talked in general about a number of things, but he said very clearly that he was quite aware of the fact that when you step out in front in a situation, you can become a target. And he was quite aware of the fact that he would someday become a target, which of course, he did. But not over the Suez Crisis so much as the Congo. And when we reached Rome, one of his close friends, who was helping as an aide, came and asked me . . . one of very close friends, who was acting as a kind of an aide to him, came up to me and said, "Would you like to go down to Naples?" And I said, "Would I?!" And he said, "Well, they have to very careful about this, because there are all kinds of people waiting to go." Especially correspondents, they wanted to go down to Naples, too. So, he took me out back of plane, and it was an Italian Air Force plane we were going to go in. He took me out back of the plane, and
smuggled me aboard, so to speak, so that when Dag came aboard, there I sat. And so, we had a chance to do a little chatting on the way down to Naples. He was explaining to me that he couldn't possibly into Egypt with the UNEF forces, because they were flying in Swiss planes, and he couldn't possibly take somebody not associated with the UNEF forces aboard. So, I had to let go at Naples.

HQ: Good old George. I didn't know was behind that, but he did the same thing so many times when I was in the Congo as spokesman. And I officially had to know nothing about it, but he smuggled a number of correspondents onto UN planes, from Leopoldville to Katanga.

SILVIAN: He had a better sense of public relations than Mr. Hammarskjöld.

FREDERICK: And he was very close to Dag. He never forgave himself for not being on the plane the day it crashed.

HQ: Well you know, I was supposed to have been on that plane. I never forgave Linner for not letting me go, because I felt that I should be.

SILVIAN: How did you address him? Was he so formal that you always had to call him Secretary-General, or--

FREDERICK: Mr. Secretary-General, yes.

SILVIAN: You did. You never would call him Dag, or anything--Dag was only for talking about him when he was not there.
FREDERICK: That's right.

HO: He was an amazing editor. I was in charge of the Press Desk at the time, the UN Press Desk. And we would do transcripts of his press conferences. The various verbatim reporters would come up and dictate from their stenotype notes directly to our typists in our typing pool. And, we at the desk would go through the stencils, the carbons from the stencils to catch any errors, and so forth. And, we would send him up copies of our corrections and, in spite of the fact that we had some of the best copy editors in the UN, he would succeed in finding little mistakes, and he'd do it with enormous speed. He would put off his lunch until he'd gone through this with his very neat little notations—

FREDERICK: In blue-green ink.

HO: Blue-green ink sometimes, sometimes red. And it was amazing how accurate he was.

SILVIAN: Did he primarily have lunch at his desk, or except for—

FREDERICK: No. In the dining room.

HO: Yes, he went to the dining room, but at one time, I remember he even went across the street to a place called "Ferdie's", also known as "the greasy spoon."

SILVIAN: Oh, I didn't think that was a greasy spoon, it was pretty good.
FREDERICK: But in the main, he ate in the dining room.

HO: Yes. Unlike his predecessor Trygve Lie, when he first came into Office, on his way to his office he would take the high-rise elevator to the thirty-eighth floor, which, in the past had always been, if Trygve Lie arrived, he was taken up by himself, or with his immediate companions to the thirty-eighth floor. But Hammarskjöld said "no, no"; he told the elevator operator and the security people to let the other people who were going up in the elevator to come in.

SILVIAN: He was not just security conscious?

HO: I'm sure he was security conscious, although there was no where near the need for security that now, unfortunately exists. But he also made a point of . . . not putting his Office in such a way that—well, just the elevator plea is a perfect example.

SILVIAN: He never threw his weight around, then.

HO: No. . . . He often made a geniune, I think the sincere attempt to be just one of the UN people.

FREDERICK: I think I recall seeing him in the cafeteria one day, with the rest of the correspondents. And, I wanted to say that, when he arrived, the morale at the UN was very low, because we'd been through the McCarthy Period, and Ambassador Lodge coming in to check the loyalty of Americans working for the UN. And, one of the first things Dag Hammarskjöld did, as far as I can remember, was to go to every office in that building and shake hands with
every single employee. I remember us coming down to the bullpen of the press section, and he had to shake hands with everybody, and have a word or two with them, which I think improved morale a great deal.

SILVIAN: Was he always formal with you? Were you always Miss Frederick, or were you--

FREDERICK: Yes.

SILVIAN: Never Pauline, or--

FREDERICK: Not to my face, (chuckling) whether he used it behind my back, I don't know, he may have.

HO: But another word about his dining habits, which reflects the difference. Trygve Lie used to have table number one, in the delegate's dining room. That's the table in the corner of the dining room, you know, the north-east corner. And Hammarskjöld never took that table. When he did dine in the dining room, it was always at table number four, if it was vacant. (laughter)

FREDERICK: That was along the side.

HO: Yes, it was along the north side.

FREDERICK: Yes, I remember.

SILVIAN: Was he a man who arrived at the office at six o'clock in the morning, or--
FREDERICK: Well, sometimes he wouldn't go home, and stay all night, and work. Especially the night he went down to the Meditation Room. But once the troops were deployed, in the Congo and elsewhere, he would work almost round the clock.

SILVIAN: Was his apartment near the UN?

HO: He had, on the thirty-eighth floor, as part of his office, a suite. There was a small bedroom, and a bathroom, and a kitchenette, attached to it. I don't think he used that much as a— I understand, the only person who ever used the bath in the bathroom, was John F. Kennedy, when he came to make a speech, and he was having back trouble, so they cleaned the bathtub out for him, and they let him take a hot bath.

SILVIAN: The UN doesn't maintain an apartment for the Secretary-General?

HO: The apartment still exists.

SILVIAN: No, I mean not in the UN building, as far as a home quarters are concerned.

HO: No, no, the UN provides the Secretary-General's accommodations. Trygve Lie had a rather luxurious in Forest Hills. And, then, some very kind and wealthy people in Sutton Place, who had a house in Sutton Place made that available to--

FREDERICK: Wasn't it the Rockefellers?
HO: I don't know. Well, actually the whole property belonged to the Rockefeller, and the Rockefellers gave it as a gift to the UN. It was worth about eight and a half million dollars at the time, I think. But at the same time, after the UN had established its headquarters, the value of Rockefeller-owned properties all around the former UN site, which as you know, used to be slaughterhouses, and very depressed, it multiplied. So, whatever eight and a half million dollars, or whatever it was the Rockefellers gave to the UN, was a very lucrative gift for them in the end.

SILVIAN: But I didn't know Hammarskjöld stayed at Sutton Place, did he?

FREDERICK: No, they didn't have that house.

HO: No, U Thant was Secretary-General when—yes. And then of course, Waldheim succeeded.

SILVIAN: So where did Hammarskjöld live?

FREDERICK: Wasn't it about sixty-second street?

HO: Yes, he had an apartment in town, and a had a place out in—

SILVIAN: Brewster.

FREDERICK: Near Margie Britter's.

SILVIAN: Did you ever go there?
FREDERICK: Not to his house, but to the Britter's, I've been. Margie tells about a couple of men coming up one day, and crossing her property, or something like that. And she went out, and I think one of them was shooting something. It doesn't sound right, but anyway, doing something that isn't ordinarily done there, and she went out and scolded the person, and said, "By the way, what's your name?" And it was Dag Hammarskjöld and Bill Renallo. (laughter)

SILVIAN: But, had he gotten friendly with the neighbors there at all? Did he--after Ridder--had been a correspondent, had he not?

FREDERICK: Ridder of Times of London. I don't think that--I think that there's just that one time that he stopped there. He walking across the field, as he like to walk, and be out of doors.

SILVIAN: It was pretty hard to keep up with him when he went walking.

FREDERICK: Oh, he would stride. He wouldn't walk, he'd just stride. Even through the halls, I could see him with a couple of aides going down the hall, just way ahead of them... And they were running, practically to keep up with him.

SILVIAN: He was fluent in four languages, is that right?

FREDERICK: At least four. Swedish, English, French...

HO: German, I'm sure he knew because he used read that German philosopher--
FREDERICK: Hans Bucher?

SILVIAN: Why, he translated that, didn't he? Wasn't it Martin Bucher?

FREDERICK: Martin Bucher.

HO: Martin Bucher, yes.

FREDERICK: Martin Bucher, I think so.

SILVIAN: Where did he have time to this? He smoked cigars, didn't he?

HO: Small—small cigars, yes. Cigarillos.

SILVIAN: Can you smoke in the Assembly, or in the Security Council? Can they smoke there?

HO: Oh yes. If fact, they provide ashtrays. They used to, I assume they still do.

SILVIAN: But, he was so formal and so disciplined. Would he smoke in the Assembly or would he—he was a doodler, wasn't he?

HO: Smoking in those days was generally done, as you might remember. Unlike nowadays.

SILVIAN: Was there anything that showed the correspondents' special respect
or admiration for him in any way? Did they ever present him with anything, or--because I gather that the respect which you had for him was not extraordinary, that most of the reporters thought highly of him.

FREDERICK: Well, I think that was true, but I don't know that we gave him any token of our regard.

SILVIAN: You had him at the Correspondents' Association. Didn't he speak there?

FREDERICK: Yes.

SILVIAN: And did he then talked off the cuff? Because, as a one time reporter myself, I think he must have been the most subject to ever get a story from.

FREDERICK: He was.

SILVIAN: Did he ever talk off the cuff?

FREDERICK: Not really. (to Mr. Ho) You don't remember, do you?

HO: Yes, I remember I used to go to all those UN Correspondents' Association Luncheons. Sometimes he could be quite witty, in sort of off the cuff remarks. He had a sense of humor, too. That was one of the things that a alot of people forget.

FREDERICK: Yes, he did have that. I can't remember anything . . . he was
very witty. Were you at the Correspondents' Luncheon when old Bokhari caved in?

HO: Yes. (laughter)

SILVIAN: What do you mean?

HO: Bokhari was a Pakistani who accompanied Dag Hammarskjöld on his trip to Peking. And he was a rather odd person. I'll leave it at that. (chuckles) He was bright—brilliant, a brilliant man, but rather odd.

FREDERICK: An intellectual.

SILVIAN: Well, what happened, at this luncheon?

FREDERICK: Well, Bokhari had been having some difficulty of some kind; we heard about it, but we didn't see it. And at this luncheon, at the Correspondents' Luncheon, all of a sudden he started going down like this. (imitates Bokhari)

SILVIAN: And he fell asleep?

FREDERICK: No, no, he was sick. We assume he was sick.

SILVIAN: Or maybe he had something to drink?

FREDERICK: Well, Dag went over to him, and sort of pushed him around a little bit, and got him up, took him out.
SILVIAN: Well, he does seem like he's a most remarkable man.

FREDERICK: He was. His like will not be seen again for a long time. Nobody would be selfless enough to take that job.

HQ: I remember when Bokhari came back with Hammarskjöld after the trip to Peking. He gave a press conference, and, all he had to say about Peking—Well actually . . . Hammarskjöld had a press conference, and Bokhari was present and was asked to answer questions too. He later became the acting head of the Department of Public Information. But, he was asked a number of questions, but the only thing that he could talk about was how cold it was in Peking, (laughter) which to me, being an old Pekinese, seemed to be a rather inadequate way to . . .(laughter)

SILVIAN: How did Hammarskjöld dress? Always in diplomatic dark suits, or did he ever wear a sports jacket, did he--

HQ: Bow ties, frequently.

SILVIAN: Bow ties, well that would be indicating--

HQ: In summertime. (laughter)

FREDERICK: I don't remember. I guess he wore a sports jacket. Certainly, when he'd be out plowing around the countryside--
SILVIAN: away from the public eye. He was very neat, wasn't he?

FREDERICK: Oh, yes.

SILVIAN: Was he very neat in his office, too? Was he one of those executives that always had the clear desk?

FREDERICK: I think he did.

HQ: Yes, he was very neat.

FREDERICK: Didn't he bring in the paintings from the modern gallery?

SILVIAN: The Museum of Modern Art, you mean?

FREDERICK: Yes. For his office. They were borrowed.

HQ: Yes ... on loan. They would make them available for him. So he had them hanging in his office. He also was one to whom, in the name of the United Nations, they loaned that lovely tapestry rendition of Picasso's "Woman Descending a Staircase", or ladder, or something, which was beautiful. It used to hang outside the South Lounge.

SILVIAN: Well, he was very advanced in his feeling for art.

HQ: Yes ... Mind you, before he came, there were all kinds of so-called art objects given to the United Nations, despite the fact that when Trygve Lie
was Secretary-General, they had an international panel of artists, world-famous artists, to pass on the acceptability of gifts of art. A lot of junk was unloaded on the UN. (laughter) That Committee never met, as far as I know. But when Hammarskjöld took over, there was a distinct upgrading of the--

SILVIAN: Tastes.

FREDERICK: And he worked with the Committee in planning the concerts at the UN.

HO: Oh yes. One time the security guards came out in new uniforms, looking like sort of Texan types, you know, with the ... black pocket covers and stuff, looking like the rough--

SILVIAN: --Texas, right.

HO: Yes. And he took one look at them, on his way to the office, and gave the order that those uniforms had to go. And, I guess, they did ...