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Press Release SG/23  
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TRYGVE HALVDAN LIE  
(Biographical note)

Trygve Halvdan Lie, the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, is a Norwegian who came to his post with wide experience in law, labor relations and foreign affairs. He was Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegate to the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations at which he was elected Secretary-General on 1 February 1946.

Trygve Lie was born in Oslo on 16 July 1896, the son of Martin Lie, a carpenter. In order to help pay his way through school and college, he worked as an office boy at the national headquarters of the Norwegian Labor Party in Oslo. At the age of 16, while still in high school, he was elected president of the Labor Party's Branch in Aker, a suburb of Oslo. He held this position from 1914 to 1919, when he was graduated from the Oslo University Law School and became secretary to the Secretary of the Norwegian Labor Party.

Mr. Lie was appointed legal adviser to the Labor Party in 1922 and four years later was made a member of its National Council, a position which he held until 1940. As legal adviser he was active in promoting the peaceful settlement of many major controversies between labor and management.

When the Labor Government of Norway came into power in 1935, Mr. Lie was appointed Minister of Justice and served in this capacity until June 1939, when he became Minister of Commerce. At the outbreak of the war, he took over the newly created Cabinet Department of Shipping and Supply, building up Norway's supplies and helping to save the Norwegian fleet for the Allied cause. He was instrumental in founding the Norwegian Trade and Shipping Mission, which, with some 1,000 ships under its control, was the largest shipping concern in the world.

Mr. Lie accompanied his government to London after the German invasion, and was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the government in exile on 21 February 1941. He was sent on missions to Washington in 1943 and to Moscow in 1945.

He first became connected with the United Nations when he was chosen to head the Norwegian Delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco in 1945. At this meeting he served as chairman of the Commission which drafted the Charter for the United Nations Security Council.

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On 7 May 1945, Mr. Lie returned to London to expedite shipments of food and clothing to the Norwegians. He returned to Oslo with his Government later that month, and, after the Labor Party victory in October, 1945, was reappointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was from this post that he was sent to London for the first meeting of the General Assembly, when he was elected Secretary-General.

Mr. Lie was married in 1921 to Hjordis Jorgensen, a social worker and member of the Labor Party. They have three daughters.

The Secretary-General was prominent in the Norwegian Sports Association before the war, and enjoys tennis, hunting and skiing.

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