

EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

UNITED NATIONS PARIS GENERAL ASSEMBLIES 1948 and 1951

Historical Background:

Entering into its third year of operation, the United Nations was slowly and deliberately moving ahead, attempting to cover many bases for growth and development. Paris was chosen for the third and sixth General Assemblies because early temporary and final permanent facilities in New York were not suitable at that time.

Assemblies meet annually unless special sessions are called and each sets the docket for future activity. The first half of the third Assembly took place from 21 September 1948 until 12 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris. The second half, not included in this exhibit, was held at Lake Success and Flushing Meadow in New York. The sixth full session, also in Paris, commenced 6 November 1951 and ended 5 February 1952.

Scope:

The most dominant of numerous problems facing the members of both General Assemblies were refugees, human rights, and atomic weapons. History now tells us these problems still plague the members several decades later. It is these three areas this exhibit briefly exemplifies through stamps, cancels, and incoming or outgoing covers for the people and events related to these two Paris Assemblies.

Material Availability:

These meetings, relying on the postal authority of France, do not offer a broad time span in which services were available. Collecting material for this exhibit has been challenging over the last 30 years.

Philatelic Elements:

Care has been taken to include as many elements as possible and still cover historical aspects. Included are: die proofs, printer's proof, perforated & imperforated issues, postal plate/sheet margin markings, commemorative issues, plate blocks, printing varieties, misperforation, cancel devices/postal imprints, postage meter imprints, free frank, official stationery, and various rates.

Highlights include:

Signed artist die proofs from soft master die (fewer than 15 recorded).

Deluxe proofs from hardened master die presented to delegates.

Service cover from the Palestine Mediator's office - Dr. Ralph Bunche (fewer than 5 recorded).

Service cover mailed before Assembly started (only recorded example).

Delegate stationery of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt mailed at the Palais post office (only recorded example).

References:

1948-1949 and 1951 Yearbooks of the United Nations

Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, N.Y.

Everyman's United Nations, Sixth Edition

United Nations Office of Public Information, New York, N.Y., 1959

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Arleigh Gaines, R.&D. Publications, New York, N.Y., 1980