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Kurt WALDHEIM
(Phonetic: VALThime)

AUSTRIA

Secretary General of
the United Nations

Addressed as:
Mr. Secretary General



Kurt Waldheim, 53, was elected Secretary General of the United Nations in December 1971. He is an experienced and skillful career diplomat, having served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations three different times since 1955. During his 1964-68 stint Waldheim served effectively as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The Secretary General has approached his job with vigor and imagination. He has taken steps to alleviate the United Nations' chronic financial and management problems. In an effort to come to grips with some of the political problems, Waldheim has traveled extensively. He attended a Security Council meeting in Addis Ababa in February 1972 and visited South Africa and the disputed Territory of South-West Africa in March. He traveled to Moscow in July and to Peking in August.

Waldheim holds a doctorate in law from the University of Vienna. From January 1968 to March 1970 he served as Austria's Foreign Minister. Early in 1971 he made an unsuccessful bid for the Austrian Presidency, running as the candidate of the conservative People's Party.

A thoughtful and dignified man, Waldheim is soft-spoken and has great personal charm. He is a good friend of the United States and has been very cooperative in promoting US interests. Waldheim is married and has three children. He speaks fluent English and good French.

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