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FILE UNDER NO. 424.2

INDEX SHEET  
SYNOPSIS

SUBJECT: Review and Flag presentation Ceremony, Hq and Sv Command

FROM: FEC

TO: --

DATE: 17 Oct 1950

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2

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Civil Affairs Section  
APO 500

424.2 ( 22 SEP 1950-L

22 SEP 1950

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SUBJECT: United Nations Flag

TO: Chief, Chugoku Civil Affairs Region, APO 182  
Chief, Hokkaido Civil Affairs Region, APO 309  
Chief, Kanto Civil Affairs Region, APO 500  
Chief, Kinki Civil Affairs Region, APO 15  
Chief, Kyushu Civil Affairs Region, APO 24-5  
Chief, Shikoku Civil Affairs Region, APO 1050  
Chief, Tohoku Civil Affairs Region, APO 547  
Chief, Tokai-Hokuriku Civil Affairs Region, APO 710

1. The display and use of the United Nations flag will be in compliance with the United Nations Flag Code, a copy of which is attached for your information.

2. A copy of the United Nations Flag Code has been forwarded to the Japanese Government which has been advised of its responsibility of insuring that the United Nations Flag Code is not violated.

3. It is requested that necessary surveillance be exercised to assure compliance with the cited Code and Regulations.

FOR THE CHIEF, CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION:

1 Incl  
UN Flag Code, in dup

*J. A. O'Brien*  
J. A. O'BRIEN  
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APO  
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SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
Civil Affairs Section  
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424.2 (22 SEP 1950) CAS-1

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## UNITED NATIONS FLAG CODE

EXTRACTED FROM UNITED NATIONS BULLETIN, VOL IX No. 5--SEPTEMBER 1, 1950

## UNITED NATIONS FLAG CODE CHANGED TO PERMIT DISPLAY BY SUPPORTERS

Here is the text of The United Nations Flag Code as amended by the Secretary General on July 28:

Whereas by Resolution 167 (II) of 20 October 1947 the General Assembly decided that the flag of the United Nations should be the official emblem adopted by the General Assembly in Resolution 92 (L) of 7 December 1946, centred on a United Nations' blue background, and authorized the Secretary-General to adopt a Flag Code, having in mind the desirability of a regulated use of the flag and the protection of its dignity;

Whereas under this authority a Flag Code was issued by the Secretary-General on 19 December 1947; and

Whereas it has become desirable to amend the Flag Code to permit the display of the United Nations Flag by organizations and persons desiring to demonstrate their support of the United Nations:

The Secretary General, by virtue of the authority vested in him, hereby rescinds the Flag Code of 19 December 1947 and adopts the following Flag Code:

1. Design of Flag

The flag of the United Nations shall be the official emblem of the United Nations, centred on a United Nations' blue background. Such emblem shall appear in white on both sides of the flag except when otherwise prescribed by regulation. The flag shall be made in such sizes as may from time to time be prescribed by regulation.

2. Dignity of Flag

The flag shall not be subjected to any indignity.

3. Flag Protocol

(1) The flag of the United Nations shall not be subordinated to any other flag.

(2) The manner in which the flag of the United Nations may be flown, in relation to any other flag shall be prescribed by regulation.

4. Use of Flag by the United Nations

(1) The flag shall be flown

(a) From all buildings, offices and other property occupied by the United Nations

(b) From any official residence when such residence has been so designated by regulation.

(2) The flag shall be used by any unit acting on behalf of the United Nations such as any Committee or Commission or other entity established by the United Nations, in such circumstances not covered in this Code as may become necessary in the interests of the United Nations.

5. Use of Flag Generally

The flag may be used in accordance with this Flag Code by Governments,

Incl 1

organizations and individuals to demonstrate support of the United Nations and to further its principles and purposes. The manner and circumstances of display shall conform, insofar as appropriate, to the laws and customs applicable to the display of the national flag of the country in which the display is made.

#### 6. Use of Flag in Military Operations

The flag may be used in military operations only upon express authorization to that effect by a competent organ of the United Nations.

#### 7. Prohibition

The flag shall not be used in any manner inconsistent with this Code or with any regulations made pursuant thereto. On no account shall the flag or a replica thereof be used for commercial purposes or in direct association with an article of merchandise.

#### 8. Mourning

The Secretary-General will prescribe by regulation or otherwise the cases in which the flag shall be flown at half-mast as sign of mourning.

#### 9. Manufacture and Sale of Flag

(1) The flag may be manufactured for sale only upon written consent of the Secretary-General.

(2) Such consent shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) The flag shall be sold at a price to be agreed upon with the Secretary-General.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the manufacturer to ensure that every purchaser of the flag is furnished with a copy of this code as well as a copy of any regulations issued pursuant thereto, and that each purchaser is informed that his use of the flag is subject to the conditions contained in this Code and in the regulations made pursuant thereto.

#### 10. Violation

Any violation of this Flag Code may be punished in accordance with the law of the country in which such violation takes place.

#### 11. Regulations

(1) The Secretary-General may delegate his authority under this Code.

(2) The Secretary-General or his duly authorized representative are the only persons empowered to make regulations under this Code. Such regulations may be made for the purposes indicated in this Code and generally for the purpose of implementing or clarifying any provision of this Code whenever the Secretary-General or his duly authorized representative considers such implementation or clarification necessary.

TRYGVE LIE, Secretary-General

#### CONSOLIDATION OF FLAG REGULATIONS

This is a consolidation of the United Nations Flag Regulations as of August 21, 1950 issued in pursuance to article 11 of the amended United Nations Flag Code dated the 28th Day of July 1950.

### I. Dimensions of Flag

In pursuance to article 1 of the Flag Code the proportions of the United Nations Flag shall be as follows:

- (a) Hoist (width) of the United Nations Flag--2  
Fly (length) of the United Nations Flag--3
- (b) The emblem shall in all cases be one-half of the width of the United Nations Flag and entirely centered.

### II. Flag Protocol

In pursuance to article 3(2) of the United Nations Flag Code the manner in which the United Nations Flag may be displayed is as follows:

#### 1. General Provisions

(a) Under article 5 of the Flag Code the United Nations Flag may be displayed or otherwise used in accordance with the Flag Code by Governments, organizations, and individuals to demonstrate support of the United Nations and to further its principles and purposes.

(b) The United Nations Flag may be displayed alone or with one or more other flags to demonstrate support of the United Nations and to further its principles and purposes.

(c) When the United Nations Flag is displayed with one or more other flags, all flags so displayed should be displayed on the same level and should be of approximately equal size.

(d) On no account may any flag displayed with the United Nations Flag be displayed on a higher level than the United Nations Flag and on no account may any flag so displayed with the United Nations Flag be larger than the United Nations Flag.

(e) The United Nations Flag may be displayed on either side of any other flag without being deemed to be subordinated to any such flag within the meaning of article 3(1) of the United Nations Flag Code.

(f) The United Nations Flag should normally only be displayed on buildings and stationary flagstaffs, from sunrise to sunset. The United Nations Flag may also be so displayed at night upon special occasions.

(g) The United Nations Flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.

(h) The United Nations Flag should never be carried flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.

(i) The Flag should never be used as a drapery of any sort, never festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds but always allowed to fall free.

#### 2. Closed Circle of Flags

In a closed circle of flags, flags other than the United Nations Flag should be displayed in the English alphabetical order of the countries represented by the flags reading clockwise. The flagpole immediately opposite the main entrance of the main building determines the beginning of the circle. At United Nations Headquarters it is customary to shift the flags each time they are displayed according to a clockwise rotating system. The United Nations Flag should always be displayed on and not shifted from either the flagpole immediately opposite the main entrance of the main adjacent building or the flagpole in the center of the circle of flags. At the United Nations Headquarters or branch offices, the United Nations Flag should normally only be displayed in an appropriate place on the main building of the United Nations for the area.



### 3. Line, Cluster or Semi-circle of Flags

In line, cluster or semi-circle groupings all flags other than the United Nations Flag shall be displayed in the English alphabetical order of the countries represented by the flags starting from the left and reading clockwise. The United Nations Flag should either be displayed in the centre of the line, cluster or semi-circle or, in cases where two United Nations Flags are available, at either end of the line, cluster or semi-circle.

### 4. National Flag of the Country in which the Display Takes Place.

(a) The national flag of the country in which the display takes place should appear in its normal position according to the English alphabetical order.

(b) When the country in which the display takes place wishes to make a special display of its national flag, such a special display can only be made where the arrangement of the flags takes the form of a line, cluster or semi-circle grouping, in which case the national flag of the country in which the display is taking place should be displayed at each end of the line of flags separated from the grouping by an interval of not less than one-fifth of the total length of the line.

### III. Use of Flag Generally

(a) In accordance with article 5 of the United Nations Flag Code the United Nations Flag may be used to demonstrate the support of the United Nations and to further its principles and purposes.

(b) It is deemed especially appropriate that the United Nations Flag should be displayed on the following occasions:

- (1) On all national and official holidays;
- (2) On United Nations Day, October 24.
- (3) On the occasion of any official event, particularly in honour of the United Nations.
- (4) On the occasion of any official event which might or is desired to be related in some way to the United Nations.

### IV. Prohibitions

(a) In accordance with Article 7 of the United Nations Flag Code on no account shall the United Nations Flag or a replica thereof be used for commercial purposes or in direct association with an article of merchandise.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in clause (a) of this section, neither the United Nations Flag nor any replica thereof shall be stamped, printed, engraved or otherwise affixed on any stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications of any nature whatsoever in a manner such as could imply that any such stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications were published by or on behalf of the United Nations unless such is in fact the case or in a manner such as has the effect of advertising a commercial product.

(c) Subject to the provisions of clauses (b) and (d) of this section neither the United Nations Flag nor any replica thereof should be affixed in any manner on any article of any kind which is not strictly necessary to the display of the United Nations Flag itself. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing sentence the United Nations Flag should not be reproduced on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs and the like, nor printed nor otherwise impressed on paper, napkins or boxes nor used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform or other clothing of any kind, nor used on jewelry.

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this section, a replica of the United Nations Flag may be manufactured in the form of a lapel button.

(e) No mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature shall ever be placed upon or attached to the United Nations Flag or placed upon any replica thereof.

#### V. Mourning

(a) In accordance with article 8 of the United Nations Flag Code, whenever the Secretary-General of the United Nations proclaims that the United Nations is in official mourning, the United Nations Flag, wherever displayed, shall mark such an event by being flown at half-mast during the period of official mourning.

(b) The Chiefs of the United Nations Missions, Directors of Information Centres and Specialized Agencies away from the Permanent Headquarters are authorized by the Secretary-General to lower the United Nations Flag to half-mast in cases where they wish to follow official mourning of the country in which such Mission, Information Centres and Specialized Agencies have their headquarters.

(c) The United Nations Flag when displayed at half-mast should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-mast position. The Flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-mast" is meant lowering the Flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the mast.

(d) Crepe streamers may be affixed to flagstaffs flying the United Nations Flag in a funeral procession only by order of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(e) When the United Nations Flag is used to cover a casket, it should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

#### VI. Manufacture of United Nations Flag

In accordance with article 9 (2)(a) of the United Nations Flag Code the Secretary-General hereby grants permission to sell the United Nations Flag without reference to the Secretary-General as to the price to be charged.

#### VII. Alphabetical Order

Attached is a schedule setting out the English alphabetical order of the Members of the United Nations.

TRYGVE LIE,  
Secretary-General

## ALPHABETICAL LIST OF UNITED NATIONS

Afghanistan	Israel
Argentina	Lebanon
Australia	Liberia
Belgium	Luxembourg
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Netherlands
Burma	New Zealand
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Nicaragua
Canada	Norway
Chile	Pakistan
China	Panama
Columbia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Philippines
Czechoslovakia	Poland
Denmark	Saudi Arabia
Dominican Republic	Sweden
Equador	Syria
Egypt	Thailand
El Salvador	Turkey
Ethiopia	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
France	Union of South Africa
Greece	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Guatemala	United Kingdom
Haiti	United States of America
Honduras	Uruguay
Iceland	Venezuela
India	Yemen
Iran	Yugoslavia
Iraq	

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The flag shall not be subjected to any indignity.

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(e) The United Nations Flag may be displayed on either side of any other flag without being deemed to be subordinated to any such flag within the meaning of article 3(1) of the United Nations Flag Code.

(f) The United Nations Flag should normally only be displayed on buildings and stationary flagstaffs, from sunrise to sunset. The United Nations Flag may also be so displayed at night upon special occasions.

(g) The United Nations Flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.

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(a) The national flag of the country in which the display takes place should appear in its normal position according to the English alphabetical order.

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### III. Use of Flag Generally

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- (1) On all national and official holidays;
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- (4) On the occasion of any official event which might or is desired to be related in some way to the United Nations.

### IV. Prohibitions

(a) In accordance with Article 7 of the United Nations Flag Code on no account shall the United Nations Flag or a replica thereof be used for commercial purposes or in direct association with an article of merchandise.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in clause (a) of this section, neither the United Nations Flag nor any replica thereof shall be stamped, printed, engraved or otherwise affixed on any stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications of any nature whatsoever in a manner such as could imply that any such stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications were published by or on behalf of the United Nations unless such is in fact the case or in a manner such as has the effect of advertising a commercial product.

(c) Subject to the provisions of clauses (b) and (d) of this section neither the United Nations Flag nor any replica thereof should be affixed in any manner on any article of any kind which is not strictly necessary to the display of the United Nations Flag itself. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing sentence the United Nations Flag should not be reproduced on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs and the like, nor printed nor otherwise impressed on paper, napkins or boxes nor used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform or other clothing of any kind, nor used on jewelry.

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Canada	Norway
Chile	Pakistan
China	Panama
Columbia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Philippines
Czechoslovakia	Poland
Denmark	Saudi Arabia
Dominican Republic	Sweden
Equador	Syria
Egypt	Thailand
El Salvador	Turkey
Ethiopia	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
France	Union of South Africa
Greece	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Guatemala	United Kingdom
Haiti	United States of America
Honduras	Uruguay
Iceland	Venezuela
India	Yemen
Iran	Yugoslavia
Iraq	