

## THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1951

Description: This recording was produced while ER was in Geneva, Switzerland. In the opening segment, ER reads a quote by Thomas Jefferson. In the following segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question regarding General MacArthur's actions in Korea and life behind the iron curtain, more broadly. In the closing segment, ER interviews Wlodzimierz Moderow, director of the European Office of the United Nations.

Participants: Ben Grauer, ER, Elliot, Wlodzimierz Moderow

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[Break 00:00 -00:09]

[Ben Grauer:] Friends, this is Ben Grauer speaking. Vegetable soup without vegetables, hmm, not so good. But when you serve Habitant vegetable soup, don't worry about finding vegetables. Habitant vegetable soup is generously blessed with all kinds of plump, juicy garden favorites, and the broth is extra rich because it's made from the natural vegetable juices. Perfect seasoning and slow simmering bring out the heavenly flavor of Habitant vegetable soup. You'll also enjoy wonderful Habitant pea soup, the genuine old French Quebec style soup, and tangy Habitant onion soup with its tender, juicy onion slices in pure meat broth. Try and enjoy Habitant vegetable soup, Habitant pea soup, and Habitant onion soup. Get Habitant in the yellow can, and remember Habitant soups have been granted the *Good Housekeeping* seal and have been tested and commended by *Parents'* magazine. Uh Elliott has a question for Mrs. Roosevelt.

[Break 1:13-1:30]

[Ben Grauer:] Before we meet today's guest, here's a reminder: Everyone listening will want to read Mrs. Roosevelt's exclusive article in *Look* magazine. What was it like to be the wife of the history-making president? In *Look* magazine, Mrs. Roosevelt tells the story of seven persons who shaped her life. Why was she lost and lonely as a girl? What forces turned her shyness into strength? Learn from *Look* about the teacher who first inspired her interest in the world of affairs. Who gave her the final, important push into public life? Would Eleanor Roosevelt have been the first lady of the world today if her husband had not been president? Don't miss Eleanor Roosevelt's own intriguing revelations in the latest issue of *Look* magazine. *Look* is on your newsstands now. Get your copy of *Look* today. Now overseas to Geneva, and here's Elliott.

[Break 2:23-2:33]

[Ben Grauer:] Yes, our usual pause midway for identification. Meanwhile, this word from the Messing Bakeries. People sometimes wonder just what it is that makes Messing ready-cut rye bread so different and better. Well, it isn't any one thing; it's partly due to using only the best ingredients, and the know-how that comes with over a half a century's experience, that certainly helps. But even more important is the pride the Messing family takes in baking the very finest rye bread possible, and that pride is a priceless heritage from Grandpa Messing, who started the business back in 1897. If you want to know how really delicious rye bread can be, get a loaf of cellophane-wrapped Messing ready-cut rye today. That's M-e-s-s-i-n-g, Messing. You'll like its hearty flavor and its crisp delicious crust that come from baking on the hearth. It's great for sandwiches, for picnics, in fact for any occasion. Remember, Messing means more, more quality, more variety, more satisfying taste. This is WNBC AM and FM, New York, and you're

listening to *The Eleanor Roosevelt Program*. This program was recorded in Geneva especially for use today. Before we rejoin uh the Roosevelts, this little reminder: Give yourself and your family a different vacation this year, a vacation under canvas. There are thirty-four free public campsites in New York State, open to anyone from anywhere. The only restriction is that facilities are available on a first come first serve basis. If you want more information, write to the New York State Conservation Department, Albany One. Ask about free public campsites in the Adirondacks or the Catskills. Now to continue, here again is Elliott.

[Break 4:30-4:41]

[Ben Grauer:] Mrs. Roosevelt has just concluded her interview with today's guest, uh who has talked of his function in the administrative and conference arrangements of UN units accommodated in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Monsieur Wlodzimierz Moderow, director of the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva. Are you looking for something new and different in cheese that's economical too? Well here it is. It's Julianna, a brand new cheese with an Old World flavor. Newly arrived from the heart of Holland, Julianna is the result of age-old Dutch cheese formulas and is truly delicious and nutritious through and through. Julianna comes to you in two types: the tasty, tangy Gouda spread for quick sandwiches or crackers, or the mild and mellow Gouda and Edam wedges for salads, sauces, and with pie. And here's the best use of all, the kind that will thrill the pennywise housewife, Juliana gives you the luxury of imported cheese at prices the same or lower than domestic brands, so that ounce for ounce, when you buy Juliana cheese, it costs you no more to enjoy the best. Start today by treating yourself to a package of Juliana imported cheese, at all chain and independent grocers, it's Juliana Brand, your best choice in cheese. Now here is a message from the makers of Joy.

[Break 6:10-6:26]

[Ben Grauer:] This has been *The Eleanor Roosevelt Program*. Today's program was recorded in Geneva, and we wish to thank the Swiss Broadcasting Company for making their facilities available to us, and also our thanks to Swiss Air for transporting the recordings so nicely on schedule to arrive here for our broadcast today. Today Mrs. Roosevelt's guest was the uh president, rather the director of the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, Monsieur Wlodzimierz Moderow. And tomorrow Mrs. Roosevelt continues her interviews, growing out of her overseas tour, with another noted European personality. We'll have before our microphone tomorrow the president of the International Red Cross, Doctor Paul Rueger. Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott Roosevelt will be with you again tomorrow with Dr. Rueger, and every day, Monday through Friday, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Until tomorrow then, at the usual time, this is Ben Grauer bidding you good afternoon.

[Break 7:22-7:33]

[ER:] How do you do? This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. We are continuing with the programs which I recorded while I was in Europe, attending the United Nations Human Rights Commission meetings.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] In Europe, headquarters for the United Nations are located here in Geneva, Switzerland; in fact, here in the Palais des Nations. The director of the European Office of the United Nations is Mr. Wlodzimierz Moderow. He will be Mrs. Roosevelt's guest on today's recorded program, and she will introduce Mr. Moderow to you later on in the program. Now I'd like to hear what our sponsors have to tell us today, and then we'll come to our own discussion part of the program.

[Break 8:18-8:31]

[ER:] In the time remaining today, I would like to read to you what one great American said about the principles of democracy. In his first inaugural address on March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson said: "About to enter, fellow citizens, on the exercise of duties which comprehend everything dear and valuable to you, it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our government: equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; a jealous care of the right of election by the people; a mild and safe corrective of abuses; absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism; a well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace and for the first moments of war, till regulars may relieve them; the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; freedom of religion; freedom of the press; and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civic instruction, the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust. And should we wander from them in moments of error or of alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety."

[Break 10:52-11:06]

[ER:] How do you do? This is Eleanor Roosevelt speaking. We are continuing with the programs which I recorded while I was in Europe attending the United Nations Human Rights Commission meetings.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] In Europe, headquarters for the United Nations are located here in Geneva, Switzerland; in fact, here in the Palais des Nations. The director of the European Office of the United Nations is Mr. Wlodzimierz Moderow. He will be Mrs. Roosevelt's guest on today's recorded program, and she will introduce Mr. Moderow to you later on in the program. Now I'd like to hear what our sponsors have to tell us today, and then we'll come to our own discussion part of the program.

[Break 11:50-12:07]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now, Mother, here's our question for today. Mrs. Ets-Esther G. Moran of New Hampton, New York, has written: "Being so well-informed and so broad-minded, I wonder if you could give me the answer to statements which I overheard recently regarding General MacArthur." Incidentally, I think that some of the statements don't happen to deal with General MacArthur in the latter part of this letter. "In his message, when he stated that we must not give up Formosa or the Philippines would be endangered, his chief concern is his vast wealth there. They said he is a millionaire and that it is his property there that he's concerned about. In fact, it is to protect the selfish interests of a few capitalists here in-and in England that our boys have to give up their lives. According to one young man who has recently travelled and given talks in Russian territory, in the interests of a peace movement, there wasn't even an Iron Curtain in Russia. He said they are not preparing for war as we are, and even in England and France the people think we are trying to drag them into another war. When people, intelligent people, say these things, I do not know how to answer them or even what to think. I would appreciate hearing you discuss it on the air."

[ER:] Well, the young man, of course, was a communist, or he wouldn't have been allowed to travel in any Russian territory. They--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I might add uh parenthetically to that, that uh I did go to the Soviet Union before they clamped down back in nineteen hundred and forty-six, and when I tried to return again in the fall of '48

and the early part of '49, they refused the visa, and uh [ER: Well--] that has happened to countless uh news--uh dispassionately interested people looking for information.

[ER:] Of course, no young man could travel unless he was a known communist [Elliott Roosevelt: Right.] And therefore -- and certainly couldn't give talks unless he was a known communist, so that's just perfect nonsense. But I will say that uh no one [ER coughs] told you you couldn't have a visa and yet uh-- and no one um-- I happen to have overheard in Geneva this last time I was over there, someone uh talking to one of the young Russians who talked very good English. And um he-- uh this lady said she would love to go to Russia, uh with beautiful naïveté, and he said oh, they would be delighted, that the only thing they objected to that so many people came to Russia who wanted to write of the things that were wrong, and nobody came there who wanted to write of the things that were right. And um uh she said, well, she uh didn't want to write at all, but she would just like to go to Russia and see Russia. And uh the young man said, "Why, of course, you'd have no trouble getting a visa at all." [Elliott Roosevelt: No.] And I knew perfectly well that that was just [Elliott Roosevelt coughs] [unclear term] she would try to get a visa and they would say, "Why yes, next week," and next week would come and it would be: "Oh yes, well it hasn't just come in yet, but in a little while." I don't know, I haven't any idea how um this uh young man-- he was probably one of the young people who went over to the Stockholm Peace Conference, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and um [ER clears throat] might from that--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Or went to attend one of those meetings in Warsaw, [ER: Yes.] of what they call the World Peace Movement [ER: Yes.] or something of that nature.

[ER:] So that there's- there's nothing now. As to the question on General MacArthur, I don't know one single thing about it. I happen to have been told that General MacArthur had some property, but as to the question that the general makes his recommendations because of his interests in his own property or property held by other Americans or British, I don't believe it. I think the general would not do that. At-but-- and neither do I think for one minute that our government -- and by that I mean our State Department and our Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who has been extraordinarily long-suffering and courageous under the way the unfair accusations made against him and this is another one of that type -- our State Department would never stand for doing um any kind of American policy purely because it would benefit a few people, either Americans or British, who own property in a place. Now, it is true that we might make up our minds that the Philippines should be protected in their own independence, [Elliott Roosevelt: Right.] and that for certain reasons um it might seem wise uh to have Formosa a-- under the United Nations for a time. I'm not saying what our policy will be a-- in that region, but the reasons for it will never be because certain British and American financial interests. Uh those interests would love, I'm sure, to have their interests protected, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and it is legitimate that you consider um the interests of your nationals in other countries, but you don't send your men to war for that. [Elliott Roosevelt: No.] You can't--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I think that uh it-it might be wise to sa-say that it's all very easy to listen to the rather glib uh denunciation put forward by all communists of uh-uh the United States [recording skips] other governments of other nations that are cooperating within the United Nations to try to see uh that the spread of communism doesn't go on unchecked, that they do not just walk over and acquire new uh territories willy-nilly by force of violence and by internal actions.

[ER:] Well, of course, I heard the-- in the Human Rights Commission, the USSR representative say that the Marshall Plan was um that terrible plan for the enslavement, the economic enslavement of the peoples of Western Europe, which is of course the only plan that has saved them from being completely dominated by their communist uh parties, because the people would've been so miserable, [Elliott Roosevelt: Yes.] and they wouldn't have had any economic comeback in those countries. But I hear that in the-in the UN commissions and committees all the time, and I pay no attention to it, it just goes on --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And where-where you hear that it's just a few capitalists, you can always-- that are responsible for all of our troubles today, you can be sure that that is a communist-inspired doctrine that is being-- or propaganda that is being put out.

[ER:] Yes, because you have to --

[Elliott Roosevelt:] That's uh their own words, straight out of Moscow.

[ER:] You have to remember [recording skips] that they are all always accusing capitalism, and they don't choose communism. What they say is that capitalism um has all the wrongs of the world, whereas collectivism is the real uh economic formula for the benefit of all human beings. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Um capitalism has the -- brought all human beings to slavery. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] And I was told, and I think this is interesting, I was actually told in the Human Rights Commission, and that I didn't know it, but that in the streets of Southern California, Americans were dying by thousands of hunger. And I said I was sorry, but I didn't believe it. And they said, well, of course, they may go back to their houses and die, but they die of hunger. And I said well you may believe that, but I assure you it isn't true, because there is a system of welfare and of social security, and people can get help. It may have happened that someone may have died, and I said, if you're talking about the early days of the Depression when thousands of people -- way back in the early-- [Recording stops from 20:52-21:01]--that might have happened in those days, but those days are long behind us, and we have many laws today to obviate that, and I made no more dent than if I've been talking to a stone wall.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I think you ought to--

[ER:] And they still say that in Southern California, this minute, thousands of people are dying of hung- of hunger.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] All right, there's only one phase of this letter that we haven't covered, and we should cover it in our last minute, and that is the statement by this young man who-- this obviously communistic young man who's made the statement that even in England and France, the people think we're trying to drag them into another war.

[ER:] Well, there is always the fear of people with power. Now they don't feel that way, but they are desperately afraid of war because they've had it on their own doorsteps and they know what war means. And what they are afraid of is that something will happen which will precipitate a war, and that because we have never had it on our own doorsteps and because we are building up our power, which they hope will protect them incidentally, in case of war, they are also a little afraid, however, that we might be tempted as we gain strength and not realize what war means in the way that they know what it means,

[Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and they're frightened. And I think that it's perfectly easy to understand.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes. Well, thank you very much, and I'm sorry that we can't continue on this because as a result of this letter there are numerous other questions that I might like to ask, but I see that we have to go on to our next portion of the program, which will be a very interesting interview, and uh in just a few minutes, after hearing from our announcer, we will return to your interview today.

[Break 22:53-23:07]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mrs. Roosevelt and I are today at the Palais des Nations at Geneva, the European headquarters of the United Nations, where through the courtesy and cooperation of the United Nations

radio division, and the local broadcasting company known as Radio Genève, we will hear many interesting things about the headquarters, and, Mother, will you introduce your guest of today?

[ER:] Very gladly, Elliott. He is Mr. Moderow, who is the director of the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, representing the secretary general as head of the UN administration. He deals with the administrative and conference arrangements of all the United Nations units accommodated permanently in the Palais des Nations, as well as those of the visiting conferences which take place here. It gives me great pleasure to present to you Mr. Moderow.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Thank you very much, Mrs. Roosevelt. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be invited by you, and it will-- I shall be very glad to give you all the information on questions which you um may put to me.

[ER:] Well, I'm so glad to have the chance to ask you questions. So first of all, Mr. Moderow, I think our listeners would like to have an actual description of the Palais and where it is situated. It is, I think, a very beautiful spot and a very beautiful place.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] The Palais des Nations is situated in a beautiful old park, the Ariana Park, in the immediate neighborhood of Geneva, but outside the city itself. It is a vast building [Włodzimierz Moderow clears throat] with a façade nearly four hundred thirty-seven yards in length. It has a view of the Alps of Savoie, and the lake on one side, the Lake of Geneva, and the Jura Mountains on the other side. Both chains of mountains are in France. The building, which is in part five stories, in part four stories, has a volume of one million hundred thousand cubic yards. Its floor space has a total area of ninety-five thousand square yards. The perimeter of the Ariana side is two thousand hundred eighty-seven yards. This gives you an idea of the space condition. The building contains an assembly hall, a council chamber decorated by the famous Spanish painter José Maria Sert, the same painter who made the decorations of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. There's fourteen conference rooms, eight committee rooms, and 672 offices.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Hmm.

[ER:] They put 672 --

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] 672 offices. The equipment of the conference rooms was in most cases given by a different government, members of the League of Nations, and decorated by the national artist of these countries. The architects were very lavish in their use of space. The corridors in the building are wide and well-lighted, as you may have noticed it [Włodzimierz Moderow laughs], and there is a remarkable lobby consisting of a high marble gallery with a balcony which leads out to the Court of Honor.

[ER and Elliott Roosevelt overlap]

[ER:] Oh, I-I think that is beautiful. I always um stop there. Yes, can you tell us a little about that marble? It's the most beautiful marble.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Get a description of the marble.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Yes, the marble is also uh furnished by different countries. There is also granite from Finland, there is some marble from Italy. The architects of the League of Nations, which accepted their plan, conceived this building as a center where world peace would be achieved through international cooperation, and they gave it a dignity corresponding with the greatness of this aim.

[ER:] Now who-who were the architects?

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] The architects belonged to four different nations. There was a committee of architects. Five-- uh, there was eh [Henri Paul] Nénot, a Paris architect, inspector of public buildings and national palaces. He was responsible for the Sorbonne building in Paris, in Paris. There was Monsieur [Julien] Flegenheimer, a Geneva architect; there was another French architect [Camille] Lefèvre, from Paris; there was Monsieur [Jozsef] Vago, from Budapest; and there was finally Monsieur [Carlo] Broggi from Rome. Of all these architects, Monsieur Broggi is the only survivor. [Unclear term] his visit when we put the commemorative plate on the building, with the names of all these architects.

[ER:] He-he came back, oh, I'm glad he could.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] He came here, yes. [Włodzimierz Moderow laughs]

[ER:] Oh, I'm very glad that he could be here because it must be a great pride to see the buildings again occupied and being used. Now could you tell me how the [ER clears throat] building and the furnishing um was originally financed? [ER clears throat]

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Eh the building was financed by the member states of the League of Nations. They contributed, each of them, according to a certain uh schedule decided by the League of Nations. The total cost was about thirty five million Swiss francs, which corresponds--corresponds more or less to something about eight million five hundred dollars. Of this eh amount, five million five hundred thousand dollars were given by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Jr. who offered about two million dollars for the addition to the building already planned of a library large enough to contain a complete collection of works reference relating to international questions and international activities.

[ER:] I think the library is one of the most interesting parts of the Palais, and I wish you'd tell us a little more about it because--

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Eh with pleasure, Mrs. Roosevelt. It is indeed one of the prides of the Palais des Nations. It contains three hundred eighty thousand volumes and publications, and part of the funds for its upkeep still come from the endowment which Mr. Rockefeller made for it. When the League of Nations decided to dissolve, it offered the Palais des Nations with all its equipment to the United Nations, and the offer was accepted by the first assembly of the United Nations. The library and the Rockefeller endowment were transferred as a gift while all the other assets were taken over by the United Nations at the original price that the League eh had paid. (31:37)

[ER:] Just-just when was that taken over? Just what was the date, do you remember?

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Eh it was in '46.

[ER:] Well now, uh when was the present site here completed?

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Eh in '46, the United Nations Assembly decided to accept the offer of the League of Nations, and elected--appointed a committee of eight members, eh I was myself chairman of this committee, and we came over to Geneva, and we headed out this transfer. We received the building from the League of Nations eh already in the name of-of the United Nations. There was a very small League of Nations staff working in the Palais, mostly on the matters resulting from the liquidation of the League. The United Nations began certain small administrative activities, but in the whole of '46, there

were only two conferences held in the Palais. They were the last assembly of the League of Nations, and the last general conference of the [unclear term].

[ER:] Now what were the first permanent commissions installed here? What were they, and what are the United Nations divisions which now have their permanent headquarters in Geneva?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] The Drug Supervisory Body and the Opium Board, and you probably know that the--they have been established on the strength of the special convention, eh were the first to decide to stay permanently in Geneva. The Economic Commission for Europe, which was created by the Assembly in 1947, made its [unclear term] headquarters in Geneva in the Palais. The Secretariat of this commission consists of about a hundred fifty people. The United Nations Information Center, which at present also deals with different information methods, not only in Geneva but also for some other European countries and for countries in the Near East, have also been working for some years in the Palais. In '47, the World Health Organization asked for temporary accommodation in the Palais, and has since chosen the Palais as its permanent headquarters. This organization has about three hundred officials in Geneva at present, and will eventually need about three hundred twenty offices in the Palais. As available space in the Palais was found insufficient for the WHO needs, two new wings are being built, as you probably saw.

[ER:] Yes, I know. [Wlodzimierz Moderow laughs]

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] [unclear term] work in the courtyard, at present to increase the number of offices in the Palais des Nations by two hundred twenty.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm.

[ER:] Well--

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Two years-- for two years -- may I continue?

[ER:] Yes, surely.

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] For two years the International Refugee Organization had a part of its staff in the Palais des Nations. And now the high commissioner for the refugees, of course decently paid by the decision of the assembly, who will take over some of the functions of the IFO which is now, as you know, in the stage of liquidation, has established his headquarters in the Palais. Every available office in the Palais, except a number which are necessarily kept in reserve for the big conferences, is now fully used by an--by units either of the United Nations or specialized agencies. Two of the most important specialized agencies now regularly have their assemblies in the Palais des Nations and are established are the World Health Organization and the International Labor Organization. The World Health Organization will start uh regularly annual conference next month, and uh the ILO has uh its regular conferences in the month of June.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm. Well, Mother, can I interrupt here because I think we should stop for a moment to hear a message from our announcer, and then we'll return to this interview immediately.

[ER:] Ok.

[Break 36:22-36:32]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now, Mother, let's return to our interview with uh Mr. Moderow and his very interesting description of the United Nations headquarters here in Geneva.

[ER:] Um I'm very happy to go on with this. Mr. Moderow, [ER clears throat] I wonder if you don't require a rather large servicing staff for all these activities?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Oh, yes. This staff uh grows gradually in the building to provide the administrative, conference, and general services for all these activities. We have now uh about four hundred fifty people. Altogether with the staff, permanent staff of the specialized agencies and some other smaller units of organizations connected with the United Nations, we have now over one thousand officials working in the building, a greater number than ever before at the time of the League of Nations.

[ER:] That is really extraordinary. Well now, what about visiting conferences, you have to uh-- you have to find accommodations for them as you just told us, and what-- uh how do you manage that?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] There are no difficulties for visiting conferences, provided that uh a scheme, planning is being made in advance for months, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] which really happens. Eh development took place as to visiting conferences which hardly had been foreseen in '46 when the United Nations decided to establish its European-- its headquarters in the United States. Eh we had here uh three times the Economic and Social Council, and it is also expected to meet this year in July and August. There was a session of the Trusteeship Council in the Palais des Nations in 1950. Some of the most important commissions such as-as the Human Rights, Social Affairs have met in Geneva. Important international conferences like the Conference of Freedom, on freedom of information, and the International Trade Conference, had their meetings in the Palais, and specialized agencies, not only those who are based in Geneva, but also outside, speci-specialized agencies have also some of their conferences and meetings here in Geneva.

[ER:] Well now, what meetings are going on right now, besides the Human Rights Commission here?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Besides of the Human Rights Commission, we have now a number of committees of the Economic Commission of Europe, certain committees of the World Health Organization, a committee eh dealing with the currency question for the council of plebia, thus a meeting of the pension committee of the United Nations and the specialized agency just terminated its work, uh--

[ER:] Wow, what a variety of things. Now, of course a great many people who naturally know that the United Nations headquarters are in New York wonder why there are conferences and meetings held in Geneva and in other places in Europe. Can you just give me an idea of why that is?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Of course, uh the decision is taken by the uh organs and organizations concerned. And uh there we can only express an opinion, a certain view on it, but of course it is up to these organs and organizations to explain why they want to meet [ER: Why they want to meet here.] in Geneva. Generally I think it can be said that uh there is a general widespread opinion that there should be from time to time meetings of United Nations bodies in Europe and as the Palais des Nations seems to be quite an appropriate place for these meetings, so uh often these decisions are being taken by the bodies concerned. Besides--

[ER:] Well, I--it's-it's so beautiful that I can quite understand it.

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] May I add that President Truman last year even expressed at one of his press conferences the view there should be some of the meetings of United Nations bodies, units, organs in Europe.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mhm.

[ER:] Do you have many tourists coming here to see the Palais?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Oh, uh we had uh last year a quite interesting development. We had last year the greatest number of tourists which ever have visited uh the Palais des Nations. It was 103,000.

[ER:] Oh my.

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] And eh-eh you must take in consideration that Geneva is a small place, it's not like New York, [ER: Yes.] and eh Switzerland is a small country, and the tourists still find some difficulties in getting currency, because this is a country of a rather one of the hardest currencies in the world.

[ER:] I know, I know. [All laugh] Well now then, this is something I want to ask you about Switzerland, because Switzerland um having always maintained her neutrality status, is not a member of the United Nations, and why was Geneva chosen for the Europe -- United Nations European Office, and how um was this fitted with the Swiss authorities, for instance?

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] Uh Geneva had been chosen uh of course for one-for one decisive reason, because the United Nations took over the building. So they had, eh especially in the first years after the devastation of the war this country was quite intact, and there was for many reasons, it was the best imaginable place for this conference. As to the Swiss government, so uh the Swiss government is not member of the United Nations, but is a member of all the specialized agencies. [ER: Mhm, yes.] So in all the cases when the specialized agencies have their conferences here, it is quite natural that the Swiss government does its [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] best to receive them here. But apart from it, the Swiss government eh from the beginning, when the committee I mentioned before came here for negotiations, uh showed uh really uh much comprehension, and uh they were very helpful to settle all the questions eh which can arise, must arise, with effect with an office of the United Nations is having here activities, and international conferences take place. So we settled it by eh-eh an agreement which is still in force, which gives-- guarantees the United Nations building extraterritoriality, which gives very eh extensive eh immunities and privileges to the delegates and eh to the staff of the United Nations. There was another question we had also to settle, the question of eh the ownership, because the ground, the Ariana Park, is not the property of the United Nations, [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] only the building.

[ER:] Oh, good gracious, what a complication! [laughs] How do you--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Who owns the ground?

[ER:] Who owns the ground? [ER laughs]

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] The ground was Switzerland, or rather here the authorities in Geneva, the canton and-- yes, the canton and the town.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother--

[ER:] That's-that's the canton, like the states, in New York!

[Wlodzimierz Moderow:] But it is--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Yes. Do you suppose-- Excuse me, sir.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Yes, I beg your pardon.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Do you suppose that I could ask a question because we're almost out of time, and I would like to ask one very [ER: All right.] extraneous question, and that concerns the uh sight which I have seen during my visit here, and that is the fact that there is one peacock that wanders around the grounds at will, completely free, is a most temperamental peacock. He uh will only spread his feathers and perform for visitors when there's a very good crowd present. Uh how come that there is just this one very privileged animal allowed on the grounds of the- of this very fine edifice?

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] The peacock uh is-- we inherited him from the League of Nations. The League of Nations, if I am not mistaken, had about a dozen of these peacocks.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I see.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Yes. They were always considered the decoration of the uh Ariana Park. Unfortunately, only one peacock survived the war, and the transfer of the building to the United Nations.

[Elliott Roosevelt laughs.] And uh we just kept them--kept him, he likes it very much, we tried to uh to find him a--

[ER:] You should find him a mate!

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, unfortunately I must disappoint you. He dislikes her. And we had to [laughs] take her away!

[ER:] Oh, you did! [ER laughs] That's very fancy. Well, I'm sorry to say our time has come to an end, but I want to thank you so much, Mr. Moderow, and I'm sure that everyone will be interested to know more about the European headquarters of the United Nations.

[Włodzimierz Moderow:] As you may suspect, I like this building myself very much, so that it was for me a great satisfaction to be invited to you for this-- by you to-- for this broadcast.

[ER:] Thank you.

[Break 46:46-47:09]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Actions speak louder than words. Instead of merely dreaming about your future, do something about it. Join the payroll savings plan where you work. You'll be serving your country and saving for your future with United States defense bonds, a guaranteed safe investment. Join today. Set aside a certain amount every payday for your future security, and help toward your country's defense. Buy United States defense bonds now. This is Elliot Roosevelt speaking and reminding you that you've been listening to *The Eleanor Roosevelt Program*, which comes to you each Monday through Friday at this same time. Today's program was recorded in Switzerland, and we wish to thank the Swiss Broadcasting System for making their facilities available to us and also Swiss Air for transporting the recordings.

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