AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE IO BIO PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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The IO BIO Project aims at setting up, editing, and publishing a Biographical Dictionary of Secretaries-General of International Organizations (IO BIO). The idea was launched at a roundtable meeting at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention in New Orleans in February 2010 and will be elaborated upon during a panel at the Annual Convention of the ISA in Montreal in March 2011. This brief overview explains the Project’s objectives, tools, and organizational aspects. It encompasses assumptions and decisions to be made, and serves as an invitation to join or support the Project in one way or another. If interested in working on the IO BIO project, please contact us at iobio@fm.ru.nl.

A. OBJECTIVES

1. A Biographical Dictionary

Secretaries-General (SGs) – or other executive heads with different titles – of International Organizations (IOs) are the chief executives and representatives of international bureaucracies that vary in size and shape. This position has standing within International Relations Theory and many IO personalities are known to a wider public for their roles in international politics. However, there is still a gap in our understanding of the people in these posts, both individually and collectively, in terms of who they are and how they affect the performance of IOs, as organizations and in international relations. The biographical literature on SGs is limited, giving an incomplete picture of the variety of people who have held these positions and the interactions between them. To overcome this shortcoming, a biographical dictionary of SGs of IOs (IO BIO) is needed to provide short biographies of individual SGs and prosopographies of groups of SGs (descriptions and analyses of the social and professional connections of these individuals).

A biographical dictionary is a book, or a series of volumes, published in print and/or online, that attempts to cover the major personalities who share certain characteristics, such as representing an IO, by collecting short biographies of these individuals. Articles are ordered alphabetically by entry name, beginning with the personal name under which the individual is entered; generally a surname followed by one or more forenames.


The IO BIO Project is not set up as a ‘Who is Who in IOs’, but as a biographical dictionary with ‘short biographies’ or ‘mini-sized portraits’ ranging between 800 and 4,000 words. A biographical dictionary, such as the proposed IO BIO, and a ‘Who is Who’ both provide personal and professional data about the people making and carrying out decisions in certain arenas, in this case, IOs. While the information provided by a ‘Who is Who’ remains restricted in various cases, at other times ‘Who is Who’s’ offer large enumerations of functions and responsibilities. There are three main differences between the proposed biographical dictionary and a ‘Who is Who’.

a) Rather than including all persons holding a significant position in an IO, the IO BIO includes a selection of principal actors among the SGs or other executive heads in a similar position but with different titles, who are the chief executives and representatives of international bureaucracies.3

b) It only includes deceased SGs. Here the Project follows the general rule of almost all biographical dictionaries: a life must be complete before it can be described and assessed in a biographical dictionary.

c) Rather than providing a catalogue of mere biographical details, all entries about the individuals are descriptions written according to scientific standards, with entries providing biographical data, a balanced account of life and work, as well as references. These entries highlight the SGs’ contributions to their profession, their IO, and international relations as a whole.

Short biographies between one and eight book pages in length aim to present an accurate and coherent description of the lives that are selected in a biographical dictionary, despite the restricted number of words in a dictionary. The genre of the biographical dictionary, with short biographies of individuals whose performance contributed to the public sphere, dates back to the 19th century, although older examples exist. While the appeal of ‘great persons’ has remained a crucial component of biography as an art, scholarly explanation has become more important, with ‘modern biography’ producing more or less coherent lives representing complex personalities as part of, and contributing to, their time. The descriptions are based on a combination of both primary and secondary sources, including private information.

The prosopographical dimension of the Project results from the fact that the biographical dictionary combines the lives of people who lived in roughly the same time periods and met each other, often coalesced together, and quarreled or clashed in actions and/or on policies. Thus, the IO BIO Project encourages authors to pay attention to the social and professional connections of SGs, their interactions, and ‘group’ aspects. After a while, the Project will be able to publish prosopographical analyses of the group(s) of SGs covered by the biographical dictionary.

Assumptions about the biographical dictionary character

1) An IO BIO is an important undertaking, as it will lead to a better understanding of the SGs of IOs
2) The IO BIO will be a biographical dictionary, not a Who is Who
3) Entries will be written according to scientific standards
4) Following the general rule of biographical dictionaries, only deceased SGs will be included
5) Entries shall be constructed to allow for prosopographical analyses

3 Function names mentioned in the Yearbook of International Organizations (2010/11, p. xiii) are: Administrator, Chief Executive Officer, Director, Director General, Executive Director, Executive Secretary, General Secretary, Honorary Secretary, President, Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary-General, Vice-President. All of these may be found among IOs, however, with some referring to positions other than the SGs the IO BIO focuses on.
2. IOs to be Included
The phrase ‘SGs of IOs’ refers to a rather large group of people. The word ‘IOs’ usually includes both intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Although INGOs have played a large role in international organization, and their executives may have parts of their career in both IGOs and INGOs, the IO BIO Project excludes INGOs for practical size reasons. In addition, while this group is as interesting as IGOs are it is larger and less coherent and would be a different undertaking. Therefore, the IO BIO is restricted to IGOs, which in itself represents a large number of organizations.

The term ‘IGO’ covers all forms of IGOs, i.e. universal, intercontinental, continental and other regional organizations, and is based on the generally accepted three criterions of three or more member states, an agreement between governments, and a permanent secretariat. In 2009 the Yearbook of International Organizations (2010/11, p. 25) counted 241 ‘conventional IGOs’, i.e. 36 universal, 35 intercontinental and 170 regional ones. The total number is even higher if the number of dissolved or apparently inactive IGOs (765) is added. In principle the IO BIO Project will cover all existing and many, if not all, of the dissolved conventional IGOs, but it remains to be determined whether or not each IGO is relevant enough to be included. When starting the IO BIO Project, it will restrict itself to launching a viable list of IGOs that in the long run will be extended. When selecting regional organizations it will try to at least cover all continents. It will also try to select interesting dissolved organizations. If certain organizations are not (yet) included for the practical reason given here, potential contributors may convince the Editors to add specific IGOs to the Database of the IO BIO Project, preferably with a list of SGs. In the long run the Project will attempt to include all relevant IGOs.

One way of covering the field more precisely would be to also include ‘non-conventional’ IGOs, hence further enlarging the number of IGOs. The total number of IGOs would be enlarged with another 709 and 817 IGOs, if ‘organizations with a special forum’ and so-called emanations are added. Emanations are IGOs not established by states, but emanating from places, persons and bodies, such as IGOs. However, given the huge number of emanations and special forums, and the relatively complicated position of these kinds of IGO, the Editors prefer to be careful and to exclude them for the moment. The Editors may discuss the inclusion of those who belong to the ‘first category’ of SGs of non-conventional IGOs by setting up a sub-list. For the time being this does not seem a first priority. Adding these to the Project could be an option by the time the IO BIO Project has published a large number of names from its original list.

Assumptions with regard to IOs to be included

1) Only IGOs will be included, no INGOs
2) The IO BIO Database will be based on existing and dissolved conventional IGOs
3) For practical reasons the Project will start with a restricted number of these IGOs, with an effort to be as universal as possible; the number of IGOs in it will be enlarged as possible
4) Inclusion of (certain) non-conventional IGOs will be discussed in a later phase of the Project

3. SGs to be Included
Once an IGO is selected, all SGs (from the establishment of the IGO to the present day) should be assessed with regard to being eligible for a short biography in the IO BIO. Not all SGs will be included because the IO BIO publishes a selection only. The first criterion for inclusion is that a SG must be deceased, because (as already established) only completed lives are eligible for an entry in the IO BIO. Furthermore, the Project discerns a variety of levels of importance among the SGs by defining three (or rather four) categories, with the most important SGs being allowed the largest number of words for the
description of their lives. Among the \textit{first category} of SGs of IOs are the main leaders, original figures and initiators of important processes in international relations. The SGs in the \textit{second category} are institutionally-important leaders of their IGO, who are not among the initial and principal actors of the first category but nonetheless deserve a relatively wide description of their activities and results. The \textit{third category} includes those SGs who left a smaller, but specific mark on their profession, organization or international relations. They are given fewer words than the previous category. Finally, there is a large group of SGs who are not eligible for a short biography in the IO BIO at all, because in spite of their qualities, they have not left a mark for any reason, whether good, bad, or unusual, as the criterion for inclusion in the \textit{Oxford Dictionary of National Biography} says.\footnote{See \url{www.oup.com/oxforddnb/info/quickguide/who}.}

The Project’s Database provides an overview of all SGs per IGO and the Editors will assess the lives of all SGs with regard to eligibility and the specific category in the Project. Given the difficulty of assessment, the Editors will ask experts and relevant organizations to help in this process. A general rule could be to allow SGs of universal and intercontinental IGOs a first (or second and exceptionally a third) category status, while SGs of continental and regional organizations are given a second (or third and exceptionally a first) category status. Long-term positions and offices held during hard times could potentially have a higher qualification.

The Editors will discuss further whether the Project misses important figures with regard to the chief executives and representatives of international bureaucracies they try to cover. One way of enlarging the number of lives to be included is to go ‘deeper’ into the organization, particularly in huge and complex organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union. If the Project restricts itself to SGs, it may ‘lose’ \textit{persons under the level of SG} who are well-known and played very important roles, in particular those people with whom the SG worked intensively and/or was supported by within his or her office. If we disregard the fact that some are still alive, should the Project, in the case of the UN, also include under SGs (for instance, Lakhdar Brahimi), deputy SGs (for instance, Louise Fréchette) or the executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, Raúl Prebisch, the personal assistant to Trygve Lie, Brian Urquhart, or the mediator Ralph Bunch? And, in the case of the EU, should it also include the presidents of the European Parliament or the European Central Bank? The more parts of bureaucracies that are included, the larger the number of entries in the biographical dictionary will be. Creating such a sub-list for a small number of complex IGOs could be considered, but it should also be taken into account that this enlargement may complicate the Project, because it will be difficult to define the criteria of who to include and who to exclude.

Another group of persons to potentially be included are so-called \textit{outsiders} who nonetheless left their mark on IOs, such as Woodrow Wilson (for the League of Nations), Jan Smuts (both League and UN) or Eleanor Roosevelt (the chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights). Not belonging to the staff of an IO is a serious argument to not include this group. However, a selection of outsiders would enrich the biographical dictionary, but enriching the dictionary is a different criterion. It does not depart from the effort to define and cover the group of SGs from whom to select, but rather from what readers or users of the dictionary would expect. If it is decided to include a number of outsiders, a separate sub-list should be created.

\footnote{The first category may be allowed 2,000 to 3,000 words, the second category 800 to 1,200 words and the third category 400 to 700 words. Based on Dutch experience these numbers work quite well, but an alternative could be somewhat more extensive, with for the categories 1-3, respectively, 3,000 to 4,000 words, 1,000 to 2,000 and 800 to 1,200.}
**Assumptions with regard to SGs to be included**

1) The Project’s Database will provide an overview of SGs per IGO
2) Only those who have left a mark for any reason, whether good, bad or unusual, will be included in the IO BIO, with three categories of importance
3) Inclusion of important persons under the level of SG in complex IGOs will complicate the Project, certainly in its initial phase, but will potentially be considered as later additions
4) Inclusion of important outsiders may be considered as additions, if it is determined that this adds a needed level of enrichment to the dictionary

**Decisions with regard to SGs to be included**

1) Assessing deceased SGs, who have left a mark for any reason, whether good, bad or unusual, with three categories of importance is preferable to a system with an equal maximum number of words, because it provides a better balance in the book: more words available for more important subjects, or the other way around – not too many words for a lesser office-holder
2) Important persons under the level of SG of complex IGOs should not be included in this initial phase
3) Writing the lives of older, but still living former SGs may enhance the Project as well as its prosopographical dimension. These lives could be published on a separate website in order to improve them before being finalized. It should be taken into account that such an enlargement means more work for the Editors
4) The number of words for the three categories should be restricted or be more extensive

**B. TOOLS**

1. **The Database and List of Entries**

   The Editors will be responsible for creating a Database of IGOs and their SGs as well as a List of Entries to be published in the IO BIO. The preliminary Database covers some 130 IGOs, with some 900 SGs, of whom some 250 deceased SGs (see Annex 1 for the IGOs). It is based on the excellent work done by [http://rulers.org/](http://rulers.org/) (Benjamin Schemmel) and [www.worldstatesmen.org](http://www.worldstatesmen.org) (Ben Cahoon and others), who have also included inventories of secretaries-general of quite a number of IGOs. We are adding organizations to our Database, which has names and additional information in two columns: the first is an alphabetical list of SGs starting with the person’s last name, and the second is an alphabetical list of IGOs, starting with the IGO’s name and providing an overview of its SGs and when they were in office. When available, URLs have been added from the IGO’s website, rulers.org and Wikipedia with the mere objective of having some initial information about the person available in this list. In some cases another URL was added because of its available initial information. Some URLs refer to stubs, but the idea is that each URL provides a starting point. In the Database we have not checked information, such as personal data, although in a few cases we were able to correct some data. Given birth and death years as well as the years in office as SG are questionable, due to the fact that various sources give different dates. Hence, all information about persons and organizations must always be scrutinized and used in a critical sense. Deceased SGs are highlighted in yellow. This Database will help to draft an attractive List of Entries to be included in the IO BIO, with an indication of the category that the person belongs to. The assessment of categories will be a matter of the Editors, who can be helped by experts.

   The Database and List of Entries will be made available at the Project’s website and the Editors will add information provided by others if they believe that this information is adequate and reliable. Annex 1 gives an overview of the IGOs included in the present Database and a random example of several deceased SGs in it.
Assumptions with regard to the Database and List of Entries

1) The IO BIO Project is a flexible project, because the Database of IGOs and SGs will be enlarged by adding organizations and names; the List of Entries will also grow because persons will be included once they pass away and are considered eligible
2) Help from outsiders, both as authors and in a variety of other ways, will be needed and highly appreciated

2. Instructions for Authors and Model Biographies

The Editors will provide Instructions for Authors, including a few Model Biographies available on the Project’s website. They will also publish texts discussing the genre of the short biography and provide opportunity for debate if this is helpful. This may happen as a result of comment on the Project’s setup or on specific entries. Entries are to be written according to academic standards and should follow the format of the IO BIO Project as expressed in the instructions. Each entry has three sections (see Annex 2 for details and Annex 3 for a first Model Biography). The first section contains personal details, the second section consists of an account of life and work, and the third section has details about archives, publications, literature and websites. Entries are conceived as a complete and balanced account of the entire life and work of the selected SGs. They should be written with an open and critical mind and should be accurate and informative, even if the number of words that the short biography allows is relatively small. Entries should follow the stages of the life and public career of the SG by discerning time periods and phases, divided by watersheds, and focusing on the contribution of the SG to her or his profession, the organization, and international relations. Assessing the contributions of a SG may help to define watersheds and play a role in the assessment of the subject at the end of the entry. Although the IO BIO focuses on the time in office as an IGO’s SG, the entry should cover the entire life and career as is expressed in the instructions. The use of primary sources is recommended in order to discuss existing myths or incorrect stories. Authors must be willing to also discuss failures, relations with questionable persons, and disputed periods in the subject’s life or work. They should be careful to avoid seeing too much coherence in a life, as this may be far more uncertain and indefinite than it looks like. Editors have a responsibility for all entries in the IO BIO and, therefore, have the right to edit the texts provided by the authors, but they will do this in close contact with the authors. Given the objective to allow prosopographical analyses, authors are encouraged to pay attention to the social and professional connections of SGs, their interactions, and ‘group’ aspects. The use of characteristic anecdotes is allowed. Each entry should have a picture, preferably taken during the time of being SG, or a characteristic illustration. All entries will be published in English. Authors hand in drafts in English and are responsible for the correction of their English in the final version.

Principle authorship of entries is open to any expert with regard to a specific SG who is willing to write an entry according to the academic standards and with the open mind required by the format of an IO BIO entry. Practitioners from the field of IOs, who in general are well-informed about developments and people within organizations, are welcomed as authors under the same conditions. Potential authors are invited to apply for authorship of a specific SG by informing the Editors and arguing why they are the best possible author for that entry. The Editors will develop a strategy of ‘How to find authors?’ in order to engage qualified authors. They may approach potential authors through institutions, professional associations, journals, other biographical dictionaries, ‘Who is Who’s, librarians of IGOs, and experts in the field. It should also be researched whether students may write small theses in the form of a short

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6 Draft instructions are added to this text. They are based on Bob Reinalda’s working paper Career Development and Authority of Secretaries-General in a Biographical Dictionary prepared for the ISA conference in Montreal, March 2011, which also contains various considerations.

biography, which may result in an IO BIO entry. One author may write more than one entry. Entries may be written also by a combination of two authors and Editors may write entries as well.

Assumptions with regard to the Instructions for Authors

1) The Instructions for Authors and the Model Biographies are tools to guide authors
2) Authors should be knowledgeable with regard to the person to be described and willing to do the required research. It should be taken into account that information with regard to SGs of IOs may be hard to get, but also that writing a short biography is rewarding
3) Given the required independently-written and critical entries of the Project, Editors may refuse authors who have too narrow family and/or professional relations with the person to be described
4) Developing a strategy of ‘How to find authors?’ has first priority

Decisions with regard to the Instructions for Authors

1) The draft Instructions for Authors shall be discussed and improved

C. ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

1. Provisional Editorial Team: Composition and Procedure

Given the magnitude and ongoing character of the Project, an Editorial Team must be set up with Editors who are willing to serve for a longer time period. The process of setting up and completing biographical dictionaries takes more than a few years. Therefore, continuity of the Project must be a major concern. Preferably, an Editor should serve a 5-year term. Editors should see to it that by the time one of them leaves s/he will be replaced and that under all conditions some Editors remain in function. Rules and regulations may be set up, but these should remain as simple as possible, since the functioning of an Editorial Team does not depend on formal relations but rather on the drive to publish the IO BIO. The creation of the first Editorial Team is a matter of invitation and application, with initially two initiators: Bob Reinalda and Kent Kille. Apart from editorial qualifications, Editors should have general knowledge of the world of IGOs, expertise about SGs, and the willingness to critically assess draft biographical entries, including checking data presented by an author, and evaluating entries that are outside their field of direct expertise. These are the main requirements for becoming an Editor. One of the Editors will serve as Editor-in-chief, responsible for the Project’s continuity, state of affairs, and contacts with institutions, bodies and persons.

Having an Editorial Team based in one place (a university or city with many IGOs) is an option, but given the worldwide character of the Project, it is preferred that Editors are located in different places. There should be a balance between Editors with regard to issues such as region, gender and age. Having certain political, social, or national convictions dominate the team should also be avoided. The Editorial Team should not be too small, because of the work, or too large, because of becoming too complex. Ideally there should be between nine and eleven members. Given regional peculiarities and the complex structure of some IGOs, some Editors should have a specific expertise with regard to certain regions (continents, or parts of them) and maybe certain (groups of) IGOs, for instance: Africa, Americas (Western Hemisphere), Arab world, Asia and Pacific (Australasia), Europe without EU, EU, and UN system. Such expertise, however, does not exclude these Editors from assessing other entries. Besides regional or organizational specialization, specific functions to be considered are the Database, retrieving and checking personal data in original sources (including the guidance of authors in this respect), the website, and English proficiency (and translations). Many of these latter functions also require resources.
The prosopographical dimension will be promoted if some of the Editors are also responsible for this aspect. An alternative would be to invite authors willing to make prosopographical analyses by the time enough entries will be available. If it is decided to also create entries of still living former SGs through a specific website section, this may require an Editor responsible for this job.

The general procedure among Editors is that when an entry is ‘given’ to an author, one of the Editors remains responsible for this entry, while the final acceptance of an entry remains a matter of the entire Editorial Team, with a decisive voice by the Editor-in-chief in case of disagreement. A responsible Editor takes care of all contacts with the author of an entry. Editors may consider adding a second and third reader to the responsible Editor, if that seems adequate for solving problems with regard to a specific entry or author. Such readers may be non-members of the Editorial Team, given their expertise in the organization, person or policy field. Editors receive all correspondence through a common e-mail address.

Most, if not all, of the work for the IO BIO will be done by e-mail and through the website. It is to be expected that the team will barely meet in full, although there will be occasions to meet, such as at international conferences and book presentations. The Editors may decide later whether an anonymous referee system will be introduced for completed texts accepted by the Editors. The advantage is that this will increase the quality and standing of the publication; the practical disadvantages at the moment are related to finding experts with regard to specific lives and disagreements related to matters of interpretation. This would lend a great extra level of work and complexity to the Project that might not outweigh the benefits of blind review.

So far the Project has no resources available, except for those the Editors bring with them. Few biographical dictionaries pay their contributors. In general they attract volunteers such as academic and other specialists who are willing to contribute and who are satisfied with having a publication in a generally-recognized work and receiving a copy of the (entry in the) book publication as compensation for their work. The first resources needed are for a website, costs related to retrieving personal data, facilities for and costs related to making corrections of and translations into English, and publication in print.

The project needs a website in order to publish relevant information, such as the Project outline, the Database, the List of Entries, the Instructions for Authors, one or more model biographies, texts about the biographical genre, links, and so forth. This is currently done through Reinalda’s personal webpage at his university. It should be discussed whether draft entries, approved by the Editors, will be published on the website in order to attract comment, corrections, and additions. Previous experience shows that prepublication may improve entries, because outsiders respond with comment and new or different information. A prepublication policy should be discussed in relation to the question of where and when entries will be published: first in print by a publisher, who may be reluctant to also having the texts available online, then after a while also online, or in another way, such as through a website that has to be paid for? This publication policy should also take into account the possibility of preparing entries on former SGs who are still alive (discussed above in Decisions with regard to SGs to be included, under 3).

The initiators should push the Project and at the next ISA conference convene a meeting, open to those interested in the Project.

### Assumptions with regard to the Editorial Team

1) Creating the Editorial Team is an open process that will take some time, but in a manner which will not impede the Project’s progress
2) Necessary elements are a balanced team composition, agreement about the general procedure, and the drive to publish the IO BIO
3) A financial plan should be set up in order to find funding of certain activities
4) A website and online publication strategy must be developed
Decisions with regard to the Editorial Team

1) The composition of the Editorial Team
2) The general procedure of the Editorial Team

2. Publisher
A Project like this needs a prominent international publisher. It should be discussed how many words and entries a first volume should have and with which deadline. Publication in print of a first volume may give the Project a necessary boost. Apart from publication in print and online, other means of support to the Project should be discussed with the publisher, such as secretarial support, costs for retrieving personal data and corrections and translations.

IO BIO WEBSITE: [www.ru.nl/fm/reinalda](http://www.ru.nl/fm/reinalda), then IO BIO
E-mail: [iobio@fm.ru.nl](mailto:iobio@fm.ru.nl)
ANNEX 1: Some Information about the Database

A. IGOs alphabetically included in the Database, 8 February 2011, including important organizational and name changes

Black Sea Economic Cooperation BSEC,
Danube Commission,
East African Community EAC, Economic Community of Central African States ECCAS, Economic Community of West African States ECOWAS, Economic Cooperation Organization ECO, Eurasian Economic Community EAEC, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EBRD, European Economic Community EEC, European Free Trade Association EFTA, European Union EU,
Food and Agriculture Organization FAO, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade GATT,
Gulf Cooperation Council GCC,
Nordic Council (Norden), North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO,
Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum PIF, Permanent Court of Arbitration PCA, Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa PTA,
Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCO, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC, South East Asian Treaty Organization SEATO, South Pacific Commission SPC, South Pacific Forum SPF, Southern African Development Community SADC, Southern African Development Coordination Conference SADCC, Southern Common Market MERCOSUR,

B. Examples from the Database by Author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Avenol, Joseph        | League of Nations                 | Secretary-General         | 1933, 3 Jul – 1940, 31 Aug   | Rulers.org: Joseph Avenol  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Louis_Anne_Avenol  
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laurates/1979/lewis.html |

For the full Database see www.ru.nl/fm/reinalda, then IO BIO Database.
ANNEX 2: Draft Instructions for Authors for the Three Sections of an IO BIO Entry

Preamble
If you apply for writing an IO BIO entry, please provide your name and, if relevant, institutional affiliation. Provide the arguments for why you are the best author for this entry. If you are related to the subject through familial or professional relations, please indicate in which ways. Also explain why this should not be an impediment to write the entry in an independent capacity.

Write the entry in English and be aware that you have to take care of correction of the final version. Follow the format and style requirements of these IO BIO instructions.

If there are any specific problems related to this entry text that the Editors should know, please inform them.

FIRST SECTION: Personal Details
Try to find the personal details of this first section as much as possible in official registers of population, births, death and marriages.

1. Complete name at birth (family name, all first names)
2. All name changes throughout life, including additions like Jr. or Sr.
3. Name by which one is generally known
4. Nickname(s)
5. Pseudonym(s), alias(es) or pen name(s)
6. Occupational descriptor, either generic and factual or specific and evaluative; keep the elements to typify the SG described in the entry restricted to two
7. Parents’ names, life dates (years) and occupation(s) (including house work and voluntary activities)
8. Records of siblings and other noteworthy family members
9. Date and place of birth
10. Date and place of baptism or similar religious moment
11. Date and place of marriage
12. Name, life dates and occupations of spouse(s) (including house work and voluntary activities), if there was a spouse
13. Number of daughters and sons
14. Date of divorce, plus date(s) and place(s) of further marriages and divorces; mention all marriages, spouses and numbers of children; if appropriate, also mention non-formal relationships
15. Date and place of death; if relevant, mention burial details
16. Awards, recognition and acknowledgments
17. Picture, preferably taken during the time of the SGship; add, if known, the photographer’s name, the precise source and copyright details; if no picture is available you may send in a characteristic illustration

SECOND SECTION: Account of Life and Work
Attention should be paid to elements, such as:

1. Origin:
   a. personal background (nationality, social position of parents, religion, race, family situation)
   b. education (various forms)
   c. professional experience (in general, in national institutions, internationally)
   d. international recruitment (how did the SG become engaged in the work of the IGO) and previous international positions
   e. relevant political and other views

2. Career development in the IO before becoming SG (as far as appropriate)
a. previous positions, participation in relevant bodies and conferences, publications, and so forth

3. The SG as politician in international relations: public behaviour, deeds and ideas
   a. attention should be paid to periods and phases of the career as SG, divided by watersheds; not everything shall be mentioned, but mainly those deeds and ideas that contributed to the issues at stake at the time and resulted in, for instance, an international convention, a program or an intervention and thus contribute to international relations; do not avoid paying attention to relevant private affairs and insert any proper, relevant anecdote(s) (but keep this limited)
   b. descriptions should include outcome and impact, also paying attention to (near) failures: what has been endeavoured and what has been achieved?
   c. the author may apply ideas about leadership, such as the room for manoeuvre that a SG may create and use through personal characteristics in combination with his or her position in office (Cox and Jacobson), Young’s typology of leadership, Kille’s styles of leadership and vision on moral leadership and the political roles a SG may play, as also discussed in the Chesterman volume

4. The SG as leader of the IO’s bureaucracy
   a. attention should be paid to periods and phases of the career as bureaucrat, divided by watersheds, and the impact of this bureaucratic leadership on the SG’s public behaviour and deeds
   b. descriptions should include outcome and impact, also paying attention to (near) failures: what has been endeavoured and what has been achieved?
   c. the author may apply ideas about the use of his or her position in office a SG may make (Cox and Jacobson) and about strong (or weak) leadership of the IO’s bureaucracy, as analysed by Biermann and Siebenhüner

5. Contacts with other actors
   a. these are other SGs, heads of state and government, representatives of NGOs, interest groups, advocacy groups, parliamentarians, the press, and so on
   b. in part this will be done in previous sections, but it may be summarized or discussed separately to make explicit the SG’s network as well as relevant similar experiences (collective historic events, generational memories)

6. Assessment: What kind of mark did the SG leave on the IO and international relations, whether good, bad or unusual?
   a. the author may deal with the SG’s long-term reputation, his or her posthumous reputation and assessments found in literature, including leadership and political authority; discuss myth making
   b. if appropriate, attention should be paid to the complex personality or psychological factors

THIRD SECTION: Archives, Publications, Literature and Websites
1. Archive(s) and location (institution, place); if appropriate internet access
2. Publications by the subject; in a chronological order; in many cases a selection has to be made given the restricted number of words allowed; if a publication is mentioned in the text (title, place, year), it should not be repeated in this list of publications
3. Literature about the subject; in a chronological order; here too a selection has to be made given the restricted number of words allowed
4. Relevant website addresses, including latest access dates
ANNEX 3: IO BIO Model Biography [in preparation]

This model biography is not tailored to one of the three categories in the IO BIO (although I would categorize him as 2nd category), but is meant to illustrate the general structure of an entry as well as the problems related to writing such entries. For instance, are all genealogical data available? I always start writing the first and third sections, because I want to have a complete overview of the personal data and relevant literature and publications. I will try to retrieve the missing data by checking and addressing institutions, such as genealogical bureaus, archives and libraries (Dag Hammarskjöld Library, Library of Congress, Bibliothèque nationale de France, British Library, etc.). Early in the process I prefer longer lists of publications and literature, rather than shorter ones, because selection may take place later (not every foreword needs to be mentioned) and some titles may be mentioned in the text. Missing data are highlighted in the entry below. There may be debate about personal elements to be included in a biography (his personal life), missing or superfluous elements, or judgements that may be reflected as a result of the sources used (for instance, Barros’ biography, or Wikipedia), although I have tried to be as factual as possible in the second section, mentioning authors where appropriate. The prosopographic dimension may also be discussed (only Monnet, Aghnides and Lester), as well as generational memories (the Dreyfus affair; the 1930s). Not all sources have been used so far: I always write a draft text before going into an archive, because I know better what to look for and it is easier to see which specifics the archive offers. My English has not yet been corrected. The text in total (everything included) has 1,560 words, which is still in the (more extensive) 2nd category.

AVENOL, Joseph Louis Anne Marie Charles, second Secretary-General of the League of Nations 1933-1940, was born 9 June 1879 in Melle, Deux-Sèvres, France, and passed away 2 September 1952 in Duillier, Vaud, Switzerland. He was the son of Ernest Avenol, ‘zouave pontifical’ and ......(profession), and ......(name), ......(profession). On ......(date) he married ......(name), ......(profession), and on ......(date) he divorced from her. They had ... daughters and ... sons. After his divorce he did not marry his companion Vera B...... Lever, ......(profession).

Avenol’s family was of old bourgeois origin. During the early 1800s it turned from a liberal toward a more religious, conservative, and legitimist mental attitude. With his father having served as a ‘zouave pontifical’ in Rome until 1870, Avenol wanted to become a monk. At the age of eleven he entered a boarding school run by Marianite brothers. At seventeen he began his studies in law at the University of

Source: http://rulers.org/indexa5.html
Poitiers. At twenty he continued his studies in political science and law at the University of Paris. The moral and political crisis of the Third French Republic as a result of the Dreyfus affair affected him, but it remained unclear whether he was a Dreyfusard or not. His religious and traditionalist background made him a devoted Roman Catholic in the political, rather than the religious, sense. Later he divorced from his wife civilly, but not in church. Though a second marriage posed no problems for the civil authorities, Avenol decided not to marry his long-time confidante and hostess Vera Lever, as this would have meant excommunication. In his later diplomatic career this private situation produced protocol problems.

Nearsightedness made it impossible for Avenol to follow a naval career. In 1905 he was appointed to the coveted post of inspector of finances. Much to his satisfaction, he served nine years in this strictly disciplined branch of the French elite bureaucracy. As civil servant he then moved up in the Ministry of Finance. From 1916 to 1923 he was a financial delegate to the French Embassy in London, where he became the French representative in the Inter-Allied Food Council, and in 1921 he was made an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1919 he became a member of the French Economic Higher Council, and as a financial expert he was sent to various places abroad, including the League of Nations’ international financial and economic conferences in Brussels (1920) and Genoa (1922) as a member of the League’s Economic and Financial Organization (since 1919).

In 1922 the French Ministry sent Avenol to Geneva in to handle the League’s finances. Avenol replaced Jean Monnet, who retired from the Financial Commission, a subdivision of the Economic and Financial Organization. In 1923 he was named Deputy Secretary-General (until 1933) and became responsible for the coordination of postwar financial reconstruction. In that capacity he devised financial solutions for Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, and China, where he was sent on a League mission in 1929. His financial expertise was appreciated. When Secretary-General Eric Drummond decided to resign, a Frenchman was to be his successor, according to an agreement made by London and Paris at Versailles in 1919. Avenol was unanimously appointed to replace Drummond. The Assembly ratified this decision on 9 December 1932 and Avenol became Secretary-General on 1 July 1933. He took office four months after Japan had left the League, followed by Germany five months later and then by Italy four years later.

In his Betrayal From Within (1969), Barros stresses Avenol’s continual hope of their return, rather than promoting discussion on their aggression. In the case of Japan’s invasion of Manchuria (1933) Avenol argued Japan’s side and when in 1935 Italy invaded Ethiopia Avenol tried to keep Italy as a member by favoring a compromise between Mussolini’s claims on Ethiopia and Ethiopia’s independence. Behind the scenes, Avenol worked against the sanctions the League had imposed on Italy (the first time an international organization used these means), but proved unable to prevent Italy renouncing its membership. Avenol’s reaction to Germany’s imposition of annexation on Austria in 1938 was bureaucratic (by dropping Austria from the dues list) and Germany’s invasion of Poland and the Gestapo’s invasion of the home of the League’s High Commissioner in Danzig in 1939 were not raised in Geneva. Compared to earlier times the dearth of leadership and inspiration at the League’s Secretariat was ‘unbelievable,’ according to Deputy Secretary-General Seán Lester in May 1940. Also, as a result of the disguised political activity of the secretary-general at the time, most of these developments remained unknown to the public at large.

Avenol’s consistent backing for French and British appeasement, his sympathy for dictators of the Right, his weak commitment to democracy, and his growing appreciation of a ‘new order’ in Europe left little room for the League, according to Rovine. When Germany occupied Paris in June 1940 Avenol told Under Secretary-General Thanassiss Aghnides: ‘We must work hand in hand with Hitler in order to achieve the unity of Europe and expel England’ from Europe. He began to fire most of the League’s staff, including all British employees, after the Armistice of 22 June. He wrote to Marshall Philippe Pétain to affirm his loyalty to the Vichy government of France, but ignored the Vichy view that the League should not have a Frenchman as secretary-general and that Avenol had to resign. Suspected of being in sympathy with the Axis Powers he was obliged to resign as Secretary-General on 31 August 1940. Signing his resignation, Avenol called the League outdated, as the ‘realities’ of the times had made his office unnecessary. Lester, who in fact had taken over leadership of the reduced Secretariat by the end of July, replaced him as Secretary-General. Avenol left Geneva and once again found out that the Vichy
government did not accept his services. He settled in a small village in the Haute-Savoie. In May 1942, Avenol returned to Geneva with a memorandum, in which he argued that the future of France lay in close cooperation with Germany, but he did not find support for his oversimplified and for the Vichy government unacceptable view. Warned about deportation by the Germans, he returned to Switzerland on 31 December 1943. He was granted asylum. In 1943 he had written his thoughts about the political situation of Europe; between March and August 1944 he revised them, adding a few pages on the day Paris was being liberated. In spite of this publication he remained isolated, feeling his situation as that of an outcast. After the war he could not return to France being regarded as a collaborator. Avenol stayed in Switzerland, where he died of a heart attack in 1952 at the age of 73.

Through the publications by Barros and Rovine, Avenol became known as the secretary-general who drained the League of its political and moral authority. His appointment, according to Schwebel, had little to do with his capacities but everything with politics: ‘Avenol came to power as the League began to lose it.’ Whereas Drummond was a ‘political’ secretary-general, Avenol struggled to make the League ‘non-political,’ according to Thorne, who also mentions Avenol’s financial expertise and capacities in a foreshadowing of the Economic and Social Council and similar UN bodies. Avenol’s ability to maintain relations with representatives of other international organizations or visiting parliamentarians was restricted, and during the summer of 1940 he refused to see or talk to Lester, given their differences of opinion. Unlike Drummond’s papers, those of Avenol were not destroyed during the war, but given to the French Foreign Office by the executors of his will (with regard to the League now available at the United Nations Office at Geneva).


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