

A SONG for the UN Secretary-General & Staff

(Written by Edward Mortimer, c.1999
with due acknowledgement to Gilbert & Sullivan)

Allegro vivace

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

1. I am the very model of a Secretary-General
I work hard for world peace and for development sustainable.
I know the Charter backwards and can quote you every article –
I've memorised each sub-clause with precision mathematical.
I implement decisions with a care that's far from cursory
And issue special Messages on every anniversary.
I've pursued negotiations through innumerable gloomy nights
And never miss a chance to speak of universal human rights.

STAFF:

And never miss a chance to speak of universal human rights.
And never miss a chance to speak of universal human rights
And never miss a chance to speak of universal human-human rights!

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

I'm very good at soothing angry heads of state and government.
If you'd seen me with Jacques Chirac you would know just what a "love-in" meant.
He makes a point of flying me to every monarch's funeral –
I am the very model of a Secretary-General.

STAFF:

He's never known to miss a Middle Eastern monarch's funeral –
He is the very model of a Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

2. My efforts at Reform are something no one should be leery at.
Since taking office I have galvanised the Secretariat.
Of UN-speak and acronyms I have pronounced the banishment
And I now hold weekly meetings with my Group of Senior Management.
It's true that crises often do oblige me overseas to be,
But that is why I've introduced a formidable DSG
Who, what is more, is feminine – which makes it pretty plain-seeming
That I'm committed seriously to top-down gender mainstreaming.

STAFF:

He is committed seriously to top-down gender mainstreaming.
He is committed seriously to top-down gender mainstreaming.
He is committed seriously to top-down gender gender mainstreaming!

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Inspire a student audience is really something which I can –
I've spoken at Commencements from Witwatersrand to Michigan.
And when U.N.A. needs a speaker for its annual gala dinner, all
Will say I am the model of a Secretary-General.

STAFF:

Yes, when they need a speaker for their annual gala dinner, all
Agree he is the model of a Secretary-General.

*Slower***SECRETARY-GENERAL:**

3. Among those I've done business with, I fear I must condemn a few:
 It's too bad that Saddam Hussein defaulted on our M.O.U.
 The Fifth Committee hasn't yet endorsed Results-based Budgeting
 But there are always times when one is best advised to fudge a thing.
 And if you don't believe my budget for the next biennium,
 Just wait till I deliver my Report on the Millennium!
 In short, when all the subterranean story of the drama's told –

a tempo Vivace

You'll say I am an SG on the model of Dag Hammarskjold.

STAFF:

You'll say he is an SG on the model of Dag Hammarskjold
 You'll say he is an SG on the model of Dag Hammarskjold
 You'll say he is an SG on the model of Dag Hammar-Hammarskjold!

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

Although some US Congressmen are still inclined to sigh at me,
 They'll find that much can be achieved by speaking very quietly.
 So when you ask the views of every saint and every sinner, all
 Will tell you I'm the model of a Secretary-General.

STAFF:

Yes, when you ask the views of every saint and every sinner, all
 Will tell you he's the model of a Secretary-General.