

Sir Brian Urquhart

Sir Brian Urquhart's professional life has been a history of the UN itself.

He has been there since its inception in 1945: he became the private secretary to Gladwyn Jebb, the Executive Secretary of the UN Preparatory Commission, and then the personal assistant to the first UN Secretary-General, Trygve Lie.

From 1953 to 1971, Sir Brian worked with Ralph Bunche (Nobel Peace Laureate 1950) on peacekeeping, conflict control and the peaceful uses of atomic energy. This period included the setting up, deployment and direction of the first UN peacekeeping force (UNEF 1) in the Suez Canal Zone in 1956; and two periods of service in the Congo. In 1972 he succeeded Ralph Bunche as USG for Special Political Affairs.

Born in Dorset, England, Sir Brian was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford University. He served in the British Army from 1939 to 1945 in infantry and airborne units in England, North Africa and Europe.

Urquhart's successful books include *Hammaraskjold* (1972) a biography of the second Secretary-General, *A Life in Peace and War* (1987) memoirs, and *Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey* (1993).

Today, he is a much sought-after reviewer for the *New York Review of Books* and he "literally has an institutional memory of the United Nations".