UN Chief Warns Staff On Political Activities

By the Associated Press

GENEVA, May 22.—United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold said today that he would not tolerate any member of the UN Secretariat engaging in political activities in his own country.

UN officials must use tact and judgment to maintain the confidence of member governments in the secretariat as a whole, Mr. Hammarskjold told a news conference.

"Members of the staff," he said, "must maintain a loyalty to the organization and to no one else. They must not accept pressure or advice from any government. This applies in a very strong sense to their own government. On the other hand, they must not act in such a way as to create an unfavorable impact on the position of the secretariat."

'A Strict Rule'

Mr. Hammarskjold said he would insure the strictest application of a secretariat rule which demands that secretariat members abstain from political activities in their own countries.

"This is a very strict rule and it goes very far," he declared. "It is essential in the present world situation that the secretariat should enjoy the full confidence of all member governments. Political activities ... (by members of the secretariat) create a situation of conflict which would reflect on the secretariat as a whole.

"Any laxity in the application of this rule might run the risk of losing the very basis of our organization, that is, the confidence of all the governments concerned."

Want Freedom to Act

Mr. Hammarskjold said that in his view "political activities" did not include the mere exercise of the right to vote. Asked whether political activities by an official prior to his employment by the United Nations would affect his status if it were subsequently disclosed, he said: "Each case will have to be studied on its own merits."

He added, however, that he regarded the UN alone as competent to decide on individual cases.

"The governments should leave the Secretary General complete freedom to act as he sees fit," he said.