

OCT 27 1971

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WE.

Goldberg Disputes Johnson Memoirs on U.N. Post

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 — Arthur J. Goldberg today attacked as false President Lyndon B. Johnson's version of how Mr. Goldberg left the Supreme Court to become the United States delegate to the United Nations in 1965.

Mr. Goldberg compared the former President's memoirs to the "newspeak" propaganda of Orwell's novel "1984."

In an interview in his Washington law office and in a formal statement, the former Supreme Court justice commented with bitterness on Mr. Johnson's account of their relationship. The former President's version of why Mr. Goldberg left the court appears in tomorrow's instalment of Mr. Johnson's memoirs, the last in The New York Times series.

Mr. Goldberg proposed that all of the memorandums on Vietnam war policy that he wrote as delegate to the United Nations from July, 1965, to April, 1968, as well as related discussions in the National Security Council, be made public in order "to set the record straight" on his efforts to deescalate the war and to begin peace negotiations.

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"Americans should not have to derive their information about these events only from the President's self-serving and biased statements in a document which purports to be, but in fact is not, the history of the events which have so profoundly affected all of us," Mr. Goldberg said.

He then urged release of his memorandums and the minutes of the National Security Council "to avoid the necessity—now and in the future—for reliance on the Orwellian history contained in the President's memoirs." Mr. Goldberg said he did not possess these records, but that Mr. Johnson had them in his presidential library in Texas.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said of Mr. Johnson's account that Mr. Goldberg was "bored" with his duties on the Supreme Court.

Mr. Johnson said in his memoir that Prof. J. Kenneth Galbraith, former Ambassador to India, had told him this after the death of Adlai E. Stevenson, whom Mr. Goldberg succeeded at the United Nations, and that Mr. Goldberg had confirmed Professor Galbraith's information in a later conversation.

Mr. Goldberg said today that it was "highly inaccurate" of the President to state that he had said anything of the kind. "It's not the truth," he said. Mr. Goldberg also labeled as

"preposterous" a remark in the memoir that Mr. Goldberg had been restless as Secretary of Labor.

Reached by telephone in Cambridge, Mass., today, Professor Galbraith said, however, that "I would have no quarrel with the word 'bored'."

He said he could not precisely recall using it but that "I may well have used that word in describing Arthur's state of mind to the President" at the time of Mr. Stevenson's death. He said he "urged" Mr. Goldberg's appointment to the United Nations post.

Several weeks earlier, Professor Galbraith said, "Arthur had dropped in to see me and he said there was a great transi-

tion going to the Court from the active life of a labor lawyer and a cabinet officer. He said that it was a difficult one."

"I could well have interpreted that as boredom," Professor Galbraith said. "He certainly gave me that impression."

"If there was an error, it was mine," Professor Galbraith said, and not Mr. Johnson's.

Mr. Goldberg said that he was far from being bored. The Supreme Court was "the culmination of a life's ambitions," he said. He left the Court with great reluctance, he said, because the President appealed to him to go to the United Nations in the national interest.

Mr. Goldberg said he accepted the post principally because

he thought that as delegate to the United Nations he could turn the Administration's Vietnam policy around and achieve peace negotiations.

In the light of events, Mr. Goldberg said, he now regrets leaving the Court "and I exceedingly regret it when I read this orwellian version of events."

He said that he telephoned the former President in Texas last night to tell him that he was making today's statement and remarked to Mr. Johnson that "you did not extend the same courtesy to me" before publishing the memoir. Mr. Goldberg said that Mr. Johnson did not reply and that it was he who said good-by.