

Statement by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey on the death of  
Dag Hammarskjold, Monday, September 18, 1961

The tragic death of Dag Hammarskjold makes this a very sad hour, not only for the people of his own land, Sweden, but for all the peace-loving people of the world. The loss of this great diplomat, this soldier of peace, this great administrator for the United Nations, is one that is almost incalculable. Dag Hammarskjold has stood as a giant among men in his dedication to peace with justice under law for the whole world, and a world order in which the weak as well as the strong might live in tranquility.

Dag Hammarskjold to me represents the kind of quiet courage which is so imperative in the kind of world filled with the turbulence and violence that surround us. He was truly a toiler in the vineyard of peace. The scripture speaks of "Blessed are the peacemakers". I think that passage of scripture, more than any other, should adorn the monument which may be erected to this great soldier of peace, Dag Hammarskjold, because here was a peacemaker. Here was one who withstood the criticism of many people and many nations. Here was one who recently took unbelievable abuse from the dictator in the Kremlin.

The Secretary General died in an operation to maintain the peace. His death can be related to the deaths of U.N. troops in Katanga -- men of many names, of many nations. They were also in the field in a mission of preserving the peace.

This operation in the Congo is one of the finest examples of how Executive action by the U.N. as a body can preserve peace. The nature and the potential of the United Nations is far more promising and far better understood thanks to the development by Secretary General Hammarskjold of the concept of Executive Action by the U.N.

Khrushchev said there is no such thing as a neutral man. Hammarskjold was an impartial man. He said in his final report to the United Nations:

"The exclusively international character of the Secretariat is not tied to its composition, but to the spirit in which it works and to its insulation from outside influences not stated in Article 100. While it may be said that no man is neutral in the sense that he is without opinions or ideals, it is just as true that, in spite of this, a neutral Secretariat is possible. Anyone of integrity, not

subjected to undue pressure, can, regardless of his own views, readily act in an 'exclusively international spirit' and can be guided in his actions on behalf of the Organization, solely by its interests and principles, and by the instructions of its organs."

In the performance of his duties, Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold was both a symbol and administrator of the United Nations mission to secure peace with justice among the nations of the world. His dedicated service is living proof that men can be wholly loyal to the high ideals and universal principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The grief of the peoples of the world is a tribute to Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, to his native Sweden, and to the human race he served so well.

The life and works of Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold are a testament to his faith that mankind will prevail against its greatest enemy, war among the nations.

His faith in the Charter of the United Nations survives him in the aspiration of the world's peoples. As a premier architect of the world community, his vision will endure as a guide to us all.

I must say nothing could be more tragic for the world today, outside of a major war, than the loss of this great man, because now the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations will be faced with the decision of finding a successor. I worry lest the Soviet Union, headed by Mr. Khrushchev, will throw the General Assembly and the Security Council into utter confusion. I worry lest the Troika principle which Russia has been advocating may succeed in the place of the man who has dedicated his life to peace.

This is a sad moment for me, and I know it is for every Member of this body, because the cause for peace has suffered a great loss.

I hope wisdom will be found in the counsels of the nations so that there may be found a successor who can be judicious, just, fair, firm, patient, and courageous; not one who is neutral on issues of right and wrong, but one who is fair and just in the struggle between the great powers; who, above all, will live by the Charter of the United Nations and its proclamation of peace under law.



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