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140 Vine Street
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02467-3051

October 24, 2016

(Via Regular Mail and E-Mail)
H.E. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson
United Nations Headquarters
405 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Re: Hammarskjöld Crash

Your Excellency:

I write in respect of my letter of September 26, a copy of which is enclosed.

I remain as interested as before in meeting with you briefly, should that be at all possible. If you could find time in your schedule, I would be extremely grateful. The conversation need not take long.

As you can imagine, I would like to follow up on the status of the Secretary-General's proposal of the appointment of a special representative or representatives.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

Hynrich W. Wieschhoff
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(617) 795-7000

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EOSG/CENTRAL

SCM/07/002

140 Vine Street
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02467-3051

September 26, 2016

(Via Regular Mail and E-Mail)
H.E. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson
United Nations Headquarters
405 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Re: Hammar skjöld Crash

Your Excellency:

I write regarding upcoming United Nations action on the crash.

You more than anyone have carried the torch in search of its cause. I dare say that without your dedication to the memory of Dag Hammar skjöld little of the progress made thus far would have been achieved.

What happens next will depend in large measure on the role you and your colleagues play. I understand full well that that reality places you and them in an unenviable position between two competing pressures. For certain Member States and interests, on the one hand, the issue of the crash is a nagging annoyance that cannot go away fast enough. And, for other parties, including families of those killed, anything less than an effective effort designed to solve the riddle of the disaster once and for all will be a bitter disappointment and disillusionment.

Of the two, I trust the rectitude of the latter is obvious.

The next step, I assume, will most likely involve a Member State, such as Sweden, proposing a General Assembly resolution that mirrors the suggestion made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his recent follow-up note.

For me the crucial question is whether the resolution will be another well-intentioned, but marginally beneficial, step that lets the trail grow colder or whether it will be constructed to produce concrete results.

The answer will turn on:

how independent and committed the appointed eminent individual is;
whether he or she has a background of demonstrated prosecutorial and investigatory skills;
whether the General Assembly puts adequate financial resources and manpower at her/his disposal;
whether the duration of her/his appointment is sufficient; and

pivotaly, whether, the General Assembly gives that individual a broad and comprehensive mandate to re-examine in its entirety the cause of the crash.

The strength of that charge will be measured in part by whether the General Assembly unequivocally demands that each Member State, big powers included, affirmatively account for all possibly relevant information — regardless of any “sensitivity” it may have had more than a half century ago. The answer will also depend on the resolve and mettle of the Member State that takes the lead in sponsoring the resolution.

I am sending similar messages to Ambassador Olof Skoog, the Permanent Representative of Sweden, in light of Sweden's historic interest and recent leadership on the issue, and to Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares in view of his role as head of the Office of Legal Affairs, which I presume will be drafting or at least reviewing any resolution that is offered.

When the press of the new session subsides for you, I would enjoy continuing our discussion in person. If your schedule permits such a meeting, please let me know.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Very truly yours,



Hynrich W. Wieschhoff
hwieschhoff@rcn.com
(617) 232-4551



Your letter of 22 August

Jan Eliasson to: hwieschhoff
Cc: Hanna Grahn, Katarina Mansson
Bcc: Jan Eliasson

09/09/2016 03:36 PM

1 attachment



Letter 22 August.pdf

Dear Mr. Wieschhoff,

Thank you for your letter of 22 August. My office has looked into the matter and found the following.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal was established in 1997 by Security Council resolution 1121 as a posthumous award to members of peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives during service with a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

The implementation of SC resolution 1121 began in 2000. Shortly thereafter, the Medal was awarded to the staff members who had perished in the crash of former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld's plane in September 1961. The Medals awarded to the late US citizens were handed over to the United States UN Mission to be conveyed to the next of kin of the deceased.

However, the US Mission was not able to present the Medals to all families. In April 2016, the US Mission therefore contacted the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding four Medals that were never handed over to the families of the deceased. Among those was the Medal to be awarded to your father.

The Department of Management will be pleased to make appropriate arrangements for the Medal to be presented to your family if you so desire.

With best regards,
Jan Eliasson

(See attached file: Letter 22 August.pdf)