

By a letter of 8 December 1961, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom informed the President of the General Assembly that a federal Commission of Inquiry would be established by the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland which would conduct a public inquiry into the accident. On behalf of the Federation, he invited the United Nations to designate a member of this Commission. Similar requests, he said, had been made by the Federal Government to the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom and to ICAO.

The President of the General Assembly, in accordance with a suggestion by the United Kingdom, referred the invitation to the United Nations Commission of Investigation.

After careful consideration, it was concluded

that the harmonization desired by the General Assembly between the different investigations could best be achieved by co-operation and exchange of information, but the investigations themselves should be kept separate. Consequently, it was decided that the United Nations would not appoint a member to the Federation's public Commission of Inquiry. At the same time, the United Nations Commission discussed with the appropriate authorities the best methods for effecting co-operation and exchange of information. It was also agreed that the United Nations Commission would begin its hearings in Rhodesia as early as possible in 1962 immediately after the Federation's Commission had completed its public hearings.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—16TH SESSION

General Committee, meeting 140.
Plenary Meetings 1036, 1042, 1074.
Fifth Committee, meeting 891.

A/4896 and Add.1-6. Letter of 27 September 1961 from Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Cambodia, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo, United Arab Republic and Venezuela proposing, for inclusion in agenda of 16th session of General Assembly, item entitled: "An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and members of the party accompanying him."

A/4920. Third report of General Committee.

A/4917. Note verbale of 9 October 1961 from Permanent Representative of United Kingdom.

A/4925. Note verbale of 17 October 1961 from Permanent Mission of United Kingdom.

A/4945. Letter of 30 October 1961 from Permanent Representative of United States.

A/L.356 and Add.1, 2. Ceylon, Congo (Leopoldville), Ghana, India, Nepal, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Venezuela: draft resolution.

A/L.356/Rev.1 and Add.1-5. Ceylon, Congo (Leopoldville), Cyprus, Ghana, India, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Venezuela: revised draft resolution.

A/4933. Financial implication of draft resolution, A/L.356.

A/C.5/896 and Add.1. Compensation to the families of the victims. Note by Secretariat.

A/5017. Report of Fifth Committee.

RESOLUTION 1628(xvi), as proposed by 14 powers, A/L.356/Rev.1, adopted by Assembly by 97 votes to 0, on 26 October 1961, meeting 1042.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling that on 18 September 1961 the aircraft carrying Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General, and fifteen United Nations officials on a mission in the service of the United Nations crashed in the vicinity of the Ndola airport in Northern Rhodesia resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Hammarskjöld and his entire party,

"Having regard to the world-wide public concern over the disastrous end of this flight, undertaken on behalf, and in the service of the United Nations,

"Noting that much concern prevails in the world in regard to both this tragedy and the circumstances surrounding it, which warrant an international investigation, the absence of which can only lead to the continuance of the present undesirable speculation,

"Noting further that inquiries have been or are being conducted by Governments or parties concerned,

"Considering it desirable and necessary that, irrespective of such inquiries, an investigation of such incidents, which concern the United Nations, should be carried out under the authority and auspices of the United Nations,

"1. Expresses its profound shock and sorrow at the death of Mr. Hammarskjöld and the following persons who died with him in the service of the United Nations as a result of the air crash: Mr. Heinrich A. Wieschhoff, Mr. Vladimir Fabry, Mr. William Rinaldo, Miss Alice Lalande, Mr. Harold M. Julien, Mr. Serge L. Barrau, Mr. Francis Eivers, Mr. S. O. Hjelte, Mr. P. E. Persson, Mr. Per Hallonquist, Mr. Nils-Eric Aahreus, Mr. Lars Litton, Mr. Nils Göran Wilhelmsson, Mr. Harold Noork, Mr. Karl Erik Rosén;

"2. Offers its sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the families of Mr. Hammarskjöld and the other victims;