

"3. Decides that an investigation of an international character, under the auspices of the United Nations, should be held immediately into all the conditions and circumstances surrounding this tragedy, and more particularly as to:

"(a) Why the flight had to be undertaken at night without escort;

"(b) Why its arrival at Ndola was unduly delayed, as reported;

"(c) Whether the aircraft, after having established contact with the tower at Ndola, lost that contact, and the fact of its having crashed did not become known until several hours afterwards, and if so, why;

"(d) Whether the aircraft, after the damage it was reported to have suffered earlier from firing by aircraft hostile to the United Nations, was in a proper condition for use;

"4. Further decides to appoint a Commission of

five eminent persons to carry out such an investigation, and request the Commission to report its findings to the President of the General Assembly within three months of its appointment;

"5. Requests all Governments and parties concerned and the appropriate specialized agencies of the United Nations to extend their full co-operation and assistance to the said Commission in making this investigation;

"6. Decides to consider, in the appropriate Committee during the current session, the question of offering suitable remuneration to the families of the victims of this grave tragedy."

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/4894 and Add. 1, 2. Messages of condolences received on occasion of death of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld.

THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, died in an air crash at Ndola, Northern Rhodesia, on 18 September 1961.

On 3 November 1961, the Security Council, following consultations among United Nations Members, considered the problem of filling the office of the Secretary-General for the remainder of Mr. Hammarskjöld's five-year term of office—that is, until 10 April 1963. Meeting in private, the Council unanimously decided to recommend to the General Assembly that Ambassador U Thant, then the Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, be appointed as Acting Secretary-General for the unexpired portion of the five-year term previously fixed by the General Assembly.¹ The President of the Council transmitted that recommendation to the President of the General Assembly and informed Ambassador U Thant of

the action of the Council.

The General Assembly met the same afternoon to consider the Security Council's recommendation. Ceylon, Liberia and the United Arab Republic proposed a draft resolution, whereby, acting in accordance with the Security Council's recommendation, the Assembly would appoint U Thant as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office ending on 10 April 1963. The Assembly voted by secret ballot on this proposal, and adopted it unanimously as resolution 1640 (XVI).

The General Assembly then proceeded to the ceremony of the installation of the Acting Secretary-General, the oath of office being administered by the President of the Assembly. Statements of congratulations were made and the Acting Secretary-General addressed the Assembly.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

SECURITY COUNCIL, meeting 972.

S/4971. Ceylon, Liberia, United Arab Republic: draft resolution.

S/4972. Resolution, as submitted by 3 powers, S/4971, adopted unanimously by Council on 3 November 1961, meeting 972.

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the problem of filling the office of the Secretary-General for the term fixed by the General Assembly, expiring 10 April 1963,

"Recommends that the General Assembly appoint

Ambassador U Thant as acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for the unexpired portion of the term previously fixed by the General Assembly."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—16TH SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1046.

A/4953. Letter of 3 November 1961 from President of Security Council transmitting resolution adopted by Security Council on 3 November 1961.

A/L.362. Ceylon, Liberia, United Arab Republic: draft resolution.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1953, p. 44 and Y.U.N., 1957, p. 119.