

Dag Hammarskjöld's Plane Crash: The Continuing Search for Truth

Next Steps for the UN Commission of Inquiry

“From the totality of the information at hand, it appears plausible that an external attack or threat may have been a cause of the crash, whether by way of a direct attack ... or by distracting the pilots at the critical stage of preparing to land.”

Justice Mohamed Chande Othman, Eminent Person leading the continuing UN Commission of Inquiry (2022 Report)

**School of Advanced Study, University of London
Senate House, London WC1E 7HU
and online**

Thursday 29 February 2024

Hosted by

**The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS),
School of Advanced Study, University of London, &
Westminster United Nations Association (Westminster UNA)**

Convenors

Mandy Banton (Senior Research Fellow, ICwS), Susan Williams (Senior Research Fellow, ICwS),
David Wardrop (Chair, Westminster UNA)

UK time

1020 Open for online attendees to join

1030 **Welcome and Introduction**

Professor Kingsley Abbott, Director, ICwS

Her Excellency Ms Macenje Florence Mazoka, High Commissioner for the
Republic of Zambia to the UK

1045 **Session 1: The Continuing Search for the Truth: Decades waiting
for the answer**

Chair: Professor Kingsley Abbott

- **Mama Chibesa Kankasa: An important voice from the night of 17-18 September 1961, Ndola**

A recording of the late Mama Kankasa, Zambia's Minister for Women's Affairs between 1969 and 1988. Introduced by Dr Stuart Mole, Senior Research Fellow, ICwS

- **Conducting a judicious inquiry**

Sir Stephen Sedley, Chair, 2012-13 independent Hammarskjöld Commission. Presentation introduced and read aloud by Dr Stuart Mole

- 1100 • **Sweden's policy change: from passivity to activism**

Dr Henning Melber, Director Emeritus, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, and author, *Dag Hammarskjöld, the United Nations and the Decolonisation of Africa*

- 1115 • **The UN mission in Congo and the mysterious case of the Fouga jet**

Dr Alanna O'Malley, Associate Professor, Institute for History, Leiden University, author of *The Diplomacy of Decolonisation. America, Britain and the United Nations during the Congo crisis 1960-1964*

- 1135 Q&A

- 1150 **Session 2: Keynote address**

Dag Hammarskjöld – The Incomplete File

Ambassador Jan Eliasson, Former UN Deputy Secretary-General and Swedish Foreign Minister, author of *Ord och Handling: ett liv i diplomatins tjänst (Words and Action : a life in service of diplomacy)*

Chair: Dr Ian Martin, Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, author of *All Necessary Measures? The United Nations and International Intervention in Libya*

- 1210 Q&A

- 1230 Lunch break

- 1330 **Session 3: Statesmen and their incomplete legacy**

Chair: Dr Henning Melber

- **"That life be conducted with dignity": Dag Hammarskjöld as statesman and man of spirit**

Dr Roger Lipsey, author of *Hammarskjöld. A Life*

- 1345 • **U Thant and the Congo 1960-1964: A lost episode in United Nations history**

Dr Thant Myint-U, Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Christ's College, University of Cambridge; UN Special Adviser on Humanitarian Diplomacy

- 1400 • **The UK imperial archives mountain: A failure to deliver**

Dr Mandy Banton, Senior Research Fellow, ICwS

1415 • **Hammar skjöld the Peacemaker**
The Rt. Revd. Dr Trevor Musonda Mwamba, President, United National Independence Party (UNIP), Zambia, and former Bishop of Botswana

1430 **Session 4: Different routes to the truth: will they lead to it?**

Chair: Dr Stuart Mole, Senior Research Fellow, ICwS

• **The French officers' plot against the UN and a hostile OAS cell in Katanga**
Maurin Picard, US correspondent, *Le Figaro* and *Le Soir*; author, *Ils ont tué Monsieur H*

1445 • **Searching for answers in US government records**
Dr Susan Williams, Senior Research Fellow, ICwS, and author, *Who Killed Hammar skjöld?* and *White Malice*

1505 • **The investigation into the circumstances of the tragic death of Dag Hammar skjöld and the party accompanying him: A UN perspective**
Stephen D Mathias, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

1515 • **A progress report in joining the dots**
David Wardrop, Chair, Westminster UNA; Editor, *hammarskjöldinquiry.info*

1530 Q&A for sessions 3 and 4

1540 Tea break

1600 **Session 5: Round Table: What Next?**

Chair: **The Rt Hon the Lord Boateng**, Former UK High Commissioner to South Africa, and Cabinet Minister

Joe Lauria, Editor-in-Chief *Consortium News*, former UN correspondent at *The Wall Street Journal*

Dr Henning Melber

Dr Alanna O'Malley

Maurin Picard

1700 **Closing Remarks**

Lord Boateng and Professor Kingsley Abbott