TREE-PLANTING RESTORATIVE MEMORIAL FOR
DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD (UN Sec-General 1953-1961)

SOWING SEEDS FOR WEST PAPUA’S RETURN
to the United Nations (2020-21)

Build your own ceremony & Video it for the UN Archives

Our tree-plantings are about healing and renewal in the Congo, and our responsibility for justice in West Papua.

They are an inclusive spiritual and humanitarian endeavour to put history back into the social curriculum.

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor” (Clovis Mwamba, Democratic Republic of Congo)

This photo-essay explains why the Tree-planting Memorial for Dag Hammarskjöld recalls for UN member-states their failure to uphold the principle of self-determination in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Dutch-New Guinea (West Papua) in 1961.

Here is the logic behind the West Papuans return to the UN in 2020-21 to take their place on the Decolonisation List as part of their pursuit of freedom and self-determination.

Here is why the UN member-states—and the peoples of the world they represent—should welcome the return of the Papuans as an opportunity to recognise and rectify the terrible mistakes they made in the 1960s.

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WHO WAS DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD? WHAT WAS OPEX? WHAT WAS OPEX IN WEST PAPUA?

Dag Hammarskjöld was the UN Secretary-General between 1953 and 18th September 1961—when he was found dead after a plane crash near the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo where he was mediating post-independence conflict.

Throughout his terms in office, Hammarskjöld ensured that UN Secretariat decisions were based on ‘respect for the laws by which human civilization has been built’ and ‘strict observance of the rules and principles in the UN Charter’.

In 1956 he created a bold form of UN assistance for new and emerging states in need of trained administrators and civil servants, where international experts worked for—and were accountable to—the new state’s administration (rather than a donor-country’s bilateral aid program). In 1958 the General Assembly approved OPEX as a pilot project, by July 1959 there were 90 requests from 28 countries, and in 1960 the General Assembly approved and financed OPEX on a continuing basis.

The Sec-General was scheduled to introduce to the 1961 General Assembly an OPEX program that he and the Dutch had designed for the emerging state of West Papua. Typically, the program was based on the legal principle of ‘a peoples right of sovereignty over their land’. But, in also declaring, as invalid, both the Dutch and Indonesian claims of sovereignty, it was a legally derived preemptive strike against Indonesia’s [illegal] invasion of what it claimed was ‘a Dutch puppet state’.

“It is not our job to lower the ceiling ... the aim is to raise the floor”

From Hammarskjöld’s address to the International Law Association, McGill University, Montreal, 30 May 1956, outlining the principals of what became the UN’s OPEX program of administrative assistance for new states.
UN General Assembly authorises OPEX pilot program
UNGA RES. 1256 (XIII), 14 NOVEMBER 1958

UN General Assembly extends OPEX pilot program
UNGA RES. 1385 (XIV), 20 NOVEMBER 1959

UN Economic and Social Council recommends financing OPEX on continuing basis (Pres: C Schurman, Netherlands)
ECOSOC, 5 July—28 December 1960

UN General Assembly accepts ECOSOC recommendations; allocates $850,000 for OPEX 1961
UNGA RES. 1530 (XV), 15 DECEMBER 1960

In response to the Sec-General's request for more funds, UNGA provided additional 3.5 million for 1961 to raise the level of assistance to the newly independent and emerging states and to place OPEX on a permanent and expanding basis (Report by the President to the Congress for the Year 1961 on the Activities of the United Nations and the Participation of the United States Therein).

1960 246 OPEX requests from 46 countries; 33 officers in the field; 29 more being recruited

1961 214 OPEX requests from 48 countries; 90 officers in the field.

1963 200 more OPEX requests unfilled due to finance limitations; 183 officers in the field
HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT DAG HAMMARSJÖLD’S FORMULA FOR WEST PAPUA?

During my interviews with George Ivan Smith he noted that his colleague and close friend Secretary-General Hammarskjöld “was very much focused on the plan [for West Papua] that he intended to launch at the UN General Assembly after dealing with the unrest in the Congo”.

Hammarskjöld’s radical initiative to reclaim Papua from past and future colonial rule—upgrading in the process the status of the UN to protect indigenous peoples—would have totally disrupted the Indonesia strategy of [the CIA’s] Allen Dulles.

Greg Poulgrain The Incubus of Intervention 2015:pp77,79
(Also Greg Poulgrain ’JFK vs. Allen Dulles, Battleground Indonesia’, Simon & Schuster 2020)

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“HAMMARSKJÖLD’S FORMULA WOULD HAVE CHANGED HISTORY, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IT RECOGNISED PAPUAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER PAPUAN LAND” (DR GREG POULGRAIN)

THE UNITARY REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

8 September 1950 The (unitary) Republic of Indonesia—a state that didn’t include West Papua—is awarded UN membership.

1951— Negotiations with Netherlands fail on Indonesian pre-condition that sovereignty of West Papua is transferred immediately. Refuses Dutch offer to test both claims in the International Court of Justice.

1954—1957 Indonesia tries, four times, to win UN General assembly support for its claim-of-sovereignty of West Papua. All fail.

1958—1961 Indonesia amasses military hardware from both Cold War combatants (USA and USSR). Its policy is “total confrontation vis-à-vis the Netherlands, not only politically but also economically and militarily” (Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio, UN General Assembly, 9 Oct 1961).

1961 Indonesia is ‘the most powerful military power in Southeast Asia outside China’, and ready to launch an invasion and occupation of what it labels a ‘Dutch puppet state’.

NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY OF WEST PAPUA

6 December 1950 The United Nations adopts Dutch-New Guinea as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. For the next decade the Dutch Administering Authority fulfilled its Article 73 obligations, reporting on political, social, economic, and education development in the territory.

1961- In response to Indonesian belligerence, Hammarskjöld, who was responsible for the people of the territory and UN agencies working there, developed a special OPEX program. OPEX for West Papua followed previously unchartered UN guidelines, but was within the ambit of the UN Declaration for ‘the speedy and unconditional granting to all colonial peoples the right of self-determination’. As usual, the Sec-General consulted widely, including with President Kennedy and even General MacArthur (the commander of the military offensive against Japan in West Papua in 1944-5).

Hammarskjöld’s 1961 OPEX program for West Papua

i) Declaring as invalid both the Dutch and Indonesian claims to sovereignty over West Papua

ii) Recognising the Papuan people as the sovereign owners of their land

iii) Inserting UN technical officers to assist the new state’s administration for five years.
WHAT WAS THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, EDUCATION SITUATION IN WEST PAPUA IN 1961?

Netherlands New Guinea money 1949-62

Mass immunisation program for malaria yaws, tuberculosis; with World Health Organisation and UN Childrens Fund.

Precision tractor-driving lessons in agriculture training school (1955).

Road-making in the interior (1959).


May 1961 New Guinea RAAD voting on a proposal.

New Guinea RAAD (Council) was formed after territory-wide elections in February 1961, and launched on 5 April 1961 in front of representatives from every region in West Papua, an array of international media, and 135 officials from the South Pacific Commission including the governments of Britain, New Zealand, France and Australia.

19 October 1961 New Guinea RAAD names emerging state Papua Barat (not Irian), its people as Papuan (not Irianese); and its national flag and anthem. ‘In accord with the ardent desire and yearning of our people for our independence the Morning Star flag will be hoisted alongside the Dutch flag on 1 November 1961’.

Dutch Government accepts RAAD legislation but defers flag ceremonies to 1 December 1961 to allow for its Decolonisation Motion in the UN General Assembly.
HAMMARSKJÖLD'S DEATH MEANS DUTCH HAVE TO RAISE DECOLONISATION MOTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT HIS AUTHORITATIVE INFLUENTIAL PRESENCE

DUTCH OFFER U. N. NEW GUINEA RULE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

Dr. Luns underscored his Government's willingness to help the Papuan population. He pledged continued financial help and also promised to urge Dutch officials to remain in their jobs as international civil servants.

Dr. Luns' speech is being interpreted as a sign of his Government's willingness to accept the International Court's findings and to cooperate with the United Nations in the administration of New Guinea.

The United Nations, N.Y., Sept. 26—The United Nations today gave official recognition to the new Government of Indonesia, which has now assumed control of the territory formerly known as Dutch New Guinea.

The new Government of Indonesia, which was established on August 17, has requested the United Nations to accept it as the legitimate representative of the territory.

The United Nations has given its approval, subject to a formal declaration by the new Government that it will comply with the United Nations Charter.

The new Government has also requested the United Nations to provide assistance in the administration of the territory, which is divided between the Dutch, who hold the western half, and Australia, which controls the eastern sector under a United Nations trusteeship.

The plan was placed before the General Assembly by Foreign Minister Joseph M. A. H. Luns, who called it a "new concept in the history of decolonization." He said that the plan would be implemented within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

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On 27 November 1961, the Dutch motion won a simple—but not a two-thirds—majority of General Assembly votes. As such, the West Papuans Non-Self-Governing Territory was not listed on the UN Decolonisation Agenda. The member-states even refused to affirm the Papuans right to self-determination in a paragraph, voted on separately, in an amendment proposed by 13 African states who were trying to get the motion over the line:
“... that the General Assembly states its conviction that any solution affecting the final destiny of a Non-Self-Governing Territory must be based on the self-determination of the people in accordance with the UN Charter” (53-36, 14 abstentions).

Three weeks after this appalling betrayal of a UN founding principle, Indonesia declared war (19 December) and invaded (15 January 1962). Under Dag Hammarskjold’s replacement the UN didn’t condemn Indonesia for its illegal use of military force. Instead, U Thant oversaw a ‘peace treaty’ between Indonesia and the Dutch for a UN trust administration, to be passed to Indonesia after seven months. He appointed—without Security Council authorisation—a team of UN Military Observers to enter West Papua, and employed 1500 Pakistani troops (rather than a multinational force) for which there are no official UN documents.

The Dutch did manage to have ‘self-determination’ mentioned in the New York Agreement. However all the UN members knew that Indonesia didn’t recognise the principle (still doesn’t) even if its constitution declares every nation’s right to it. Consequently there’s never been an act of self-determination in West Papua.
One of the last images from West Papua before Indonesia’s declaration of war nineteen days later.

This home-video was of the celebration in Sorong on 1 December 1961 as the Morning Star flag was raised alongside the Netherlands flag for the first time (as decreed by the New Guinea RAAD and Dutch Government in October 1961).

West Papoa people demand Article 73 (XVI)
Indonesian government remains rejected

The word-banners demonstrate that West Papuans were aware of the treacherous result of the General Assembly vote (three days earlier) that paved path for Indonesia’s illegal invasion.

The flag-raising ceremonies across West Papua on 1 December were a major milestone in the Non-Self-Governing Territory’s measured march towards independence. (Dutch legislation, signed by Queen Juliana, scheduled independence for 1971).
On 1 May 1963, after the UN transferred the territory to Indonesia, West Papua was classified an Operational Military Zone and Anti-Subversion regulations were introduced. All the district councils were abolished, most of the New Guinea RAAD were arrested, and there were massive book-burning events. In November, 11 leaders were forced to sign a document stating they renounced their nation’s right to self-determination. In December, Papuans who’d rallied for the ‘election’ (act of free choice) to be held during the UN administration were arrested ... some never seen again, including RAAD members. Most of the UN workers scheduled to oversee self-determination processes, left on the night of the transfer, and the West Papuans were isolated, more or less alone (‘sendiri’) for the next forty years.
Since 1 December 1961, the Morning Star flag has been the cultural-political signal of commitment to West Papua's self-determination and freedom from Indonesia. More than half-a-century later it still incurs convictions of treason and 15-year jail sentences.

Lesser known signs of Papuan dissidence are the intellectual arguments in the form of petitions to the United Nations. The first were from Johan Ariks, written during Indonesia's independence struggle, directing international attention to the Papuan national cause. On 15 June 1949 he wrote to the UN Commission for Indonesia:

i) Condemning Indonesia’s involvement in deliberations about the political future of West New Guinea as an attack on the Papuan right of self-determination; and

ii) Arguing that while West Papuans were not ready for full independence they were quite capable of giving a valid opinion about political ties with Indonesia.

On 28 August 1949 Ariks wrote to the President of UN General Assembly:

“Irian opposes with all its might the imperialistic inclinations of Indonesian leaders who aim to bring our country and our people under the domination of a foreign people and foreign state with which it has never kept up friendly relations and cooperation of any kind. It determinedly and resolutely refuses to be negotiated on as a piece of merchandise without being heard”.

On 1 July 1965, two years after the UN transferred West Papua to Indonesia Ariks was jailed for ‘anti-Indonesian’ speech. He died in prison in 1967 aged 70.

Johan Ariks was an Arfak man from the Kebar Plains in the Birds Head, educated at a theology school in West Java; pastor of Mansinem Island from 1914; and from 1931 a lecturer at the teacher-training college in Mei where the first generation of Papuan freedom thinkers and fighters were educated.
Honiara, Solomon Islands, 22 June 2015. United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) presents a petition of 115,000 signatures to MSG Foreign Ministers before the Leaders Summit.

In 2001 West Papuans asked their kin-nations in the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) to share the battle for international recognition. In 2015, the MSG finally responded, spurred on by a petition of 115,000 signatures that arrived by courier from West Papua. The petition called for the UN to list West Papua with its Decolonisation Committee and uphold the right of self-determination via an internationally supervised vote.

On 30 September 2017 Benny Wenda (Chair, United Liberation Movement for West Papua) presented the petition, now with 1.8M signatures, to Rafael Ramirez Carreño (Chair, UN Decolonisation Committee in New York) as “hard hitting evidence of the will of our people for our fundamental right to self-determination … and a firm rejection of Indonesia’s claims over our sovereignty.”

On 25 January 2019 he presented the petition to Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. The UNHCR was in no mood for Indonesia’s typical angry denials and publicly announced it had received the petition.
Herman Wainggai from Serui Island West Papua was born in 1973 into a tradition of disciplined orators, craftsmen and musicians. He believes that people's dignity and their culture, as well as God's laws and the international secular laws are fundamental to West Papuans self-determination and independence.

Herman developed a passion for justice, peace and love, as well as politics and the law, during prison visits to his father's brother Dr Thomas Wainggai, a formidable intellectual who raised a flag in the name of ‘West Melanesia’ in 1988. ‘West Melanesia’ introduced a cultural and spiritual component to the Papuan struggle, and Tom was charged with subversion. He died in Cipinang Prison in 1996, reasonably suspected of being poisoned by Indonesian-intelligence.

West Melanesia’s strategy of non-violent dialogue broadened resistance from its historic base in the forest to urban spaces around the country. It politicised students and provided women with a gateway to public life. Academics, pastors and political prisoners, many with OPM backgrounds, coalesced around it, for it sheeted responsibility for West Papuans self-determination back to the United Nations and ground their future amongst kin in the Melanesian nations of the Pacific.

In 1998 Herman developed the West Papua National Youth Awareness Team. These young activists travelled across West Papua and all the other Melanesian nations—Papua New Guinea, Solomons, Vanuatu Bougainville, Fiji, Kanaky—promoting awareness of the West Papuans
struggle against Indonesian colonization, and their non-violent resistance based on land rights and responsibilities.

Herman's legal studies at Cendrawasih University, and in theology at the Bible College in Sentani, were interrupted by the Indonesian authorities that secured convictions against him for subversion in 2000 and again in 2002 (raising the Morning Star flag) for which he spent 3 years in the notorious Abepura prison.

In 2005 Herman organized the escape of 43 West Papuans to Australia. In a traditional double-outrigger canoe especially built for the journey, they circumnavigated West Papua, then crossed the Arafura Sea and Torres Strait to Australia. Their courage sparked media reports around the world, their stories alerting to the high levels of militarization, human rights violations, and Islamic terrorist cells. When Australia recognised their applications for asylum Jakarta recalled its Ambassador from Canberra.

Herman has lived in America since 2009, where he haunts the corridors of the United Nations, and founded the West Papua Human Rights Centre (https://wphumanrightscenter.org/).

See Herman Wainggai: A Hidden Genocide (10-minute documentary) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwbMgzej1k4
“I was in Iraq at the height of the American occupation, Sri Lanka at the height of the campaign to crush the Tamils, Burma at the height of the campaign against the Burmese people and the minorities who stood against the military, in East Timor and Aceh under the Indonesians, Afghanistan in Taliban-controlled areas. But never have I seen a people more systematically oppressed and isolated than the West Papuans by the Indonesian military and intelligence services”

John Martinkus, War correspondent

*The Road: Uprising in West Papua*

Black Inc., Melbourne 2020

“Self-determination has never simply meant independence. It has meant the free choice of people.”

“The job of the international lawyer is to .... look at the facts of the present case and at the policy issues involved, and to find the preferred and better answer.”

KEY REFERENCES

1. SLEEPWALKS 2013 My little Okapi deviantart.com


4. FAIRFAX MEDIA ARCHIVES George Ivan Smith, Mascot Airport, Sydney, December 1962


POULGRAIN Greg 2015 The Incubus of Intervention; Conflicting Indonesia strategies of John F Kennedy and Allen Dulles [details at 4] Report by the President to the Congress for the Year 1961 on the Activities of the United Nations and the Participation of the United States Therein [details at 3].


Farming lessons at agricultural school in Kota Nica (1954), Landbouwschool in Kota Nica bij Hollandia at https://collectie.wereldculturen.nl, and collectie.tropenmuseum.nl

Road making in the interior of West New Guinea, 1959, Zuma Press/Alamy Stock Photos FPA7F6, www.alamy.com


UN LEGAL RECORDS, Ch XI, Art 73, Pars 841-76, 763-66. Online at legal.un.org-repertory-art73-english-rep_supp3_vol3-art73_e.pdf


RUMBAK Jacob (2019) WEST PAPUA 1942—2019: the politics, the legals, and the only way forward (details at 6).


RUMBAK Jacob (2019) WEST PAPUA 1942—2019: the politics, the legals, and the only way forward (details at 6).

12. The Island Sun, Honiara, Solomon Islands ULMWP presents petition to FMM 23 June 2015.


Note that Benny Wenda first presented the petition to Rafael Carreño, the Venezuelan Head of the UN Decolonisation Committee, on 27 September 2017. The next day Carreño angrily denied the meeting had taken place (http://abcmelanesia.blogspot.com/2017/09/exclusive-news.html). A few months later, on 30 November 2017, Venezuela’s President Maduro removed Carreño from his position as Venezuela’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

West Papuans in Merauke demonstrating to show their thanks to UN High Commissioner for receiving the West Papuan people’s petition, https://www.freewestpapua.org/2019/01/29/un-human-rights-commissioner-confirms-receiving-the-west-papuan-petition/


16. Speaking truth to power: the killing of DagHammarskjold and the cover-up by Henning Melber (Extraordinary Professor, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria) and Susan Williams (Senior Research Fellow, School of advanced Study, University of London, Institute of Commonwealth Studies), The Conversation, 20 September 2016. Online at https://theconversation.com/speaking-truth-to-power-the-killing-of-dag-hammarskjold-and-the-cover-up-65534

VALUABLE READING


continued next page
Who Killed Hammarskjöld?: The Un, the Cold War and White Supremacy in Africa

One of the outstanding mysteries of the twentieth century, and one with huge political resonance, is the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and his UN team in a plane crash in central Africa in 1961. Just minutes after midnight, his aircraft plunged into thick forest in the British colony of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), abruptly ending his mission to bring peace to the Congo. Across the world, many suspected sabotage, accusing the multi-nationals and the governments of Britain, Belgium, the USA and South Africa of involvement in the disaster. These suspicions have never gone away. British High Commissioner Lord Alport was waiting at the airport when the aircraft crashed nearby. He bizarrely insisted to the airport management that Hammarskjöld had flown elsewhere - even though his aircraft was reported overhead. This postponed a search for so long that the wreckage of the plane was not found for fifteen hours. White mercenaries were at the airport that night too, including the South African pilot Jerry Puren, whose bombing of Congolese villages led, in his own words, to 'flaming huts ...destruction and death'. These soldiers of fortune were backed by Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Rhodesian Federation, who was ready to stop at nothing to maintain white rule and thought the United Nations was synonymous with the Nazis. The Rhodesian government conducted an official inquiry, which blamed pilot error. But as this book will show, it was a massive cover-up that suppressed and dismissed a mass of crucial evidence, especially that of African eye-witnesses. A subsequent UN inquiry was unable to rule out foul play - but had no access to the evidence to show how and why. Now, for the first time, this story can be told. Who Killed Hammarskjöld follows the author on her intriguing and often frightening journey of research to Zambia, South Africa, the USA, Sweden, Norway, Britain, France and Belgium, where she unearthed a mass of new and hitherto secret documentary and photographic evidence. At the heart of this book is Hammarskjöld himself - a courageous and complex idealist, who sought to shield the newly-independent nations of the world from the predatory instincts of the Great Powers. It reveals that the conflict in the Congo was driven not so much by internal divisions, as by the Cold War and by the West's determination to keep real power from the hands of the post-colonial governments of Africa. It shows, too, that the British settlers of Rhodesia would maintain white minority rule at all costs.
Speaking truth to power: The killing of Dag Hammarskjöld and the cover-up

September 25, 2014 | By Henning Melber

A UN inquiry, however, reached an open verdict and stated that it could not rule out sabotage or murder. This led to the UN General Assembly to pass a Resolution requesting the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly of any new evidence which may come to his attention.

More than half a century and many inquiries later, the search for the truth about what happened that September night continues. On 17 August 2014, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the UN General Assembly to appoint an "eminent person or persons" to review the new information on the crash. He urged member states to release relevant records for review.

Ben Ki-moon’s suggestion ended on a moving and powerful note:

"This may be our last chance to find the truth. Securing a complete understanding of the circumstances is essential to our human dignity and determination to learn the lessons of this tragedy."

Hammarskjöld, as second Secretary-General, sought to make the UN an organization devoted to peace. He developed the strategy of "preventive diplomacy," which defined the Suez Canal crisis in 1956. His prevailing commitment was to the UN Charter and he refused to act in the interest of any particular state.

In 1961, the UN was only 13 years old and was undergoing a dramatic shift as European decolonization gathered pace. The Afro-Asian bloc now provided 47 UN members out of 190. For these new states, Hammarskjöld was their "main platform and protector."

For decades, the former colonial powers have written the history of the night in which Hammarskjöld and his companions died, but a new history is about to be written if the recent momentum to find the full truth is anything to go by.

New quest for the truth

Hammarskjöld was on the way to meet Moise Tshombe, leader of the Belgian-backed secession of Katanga province from the newly independent Congo. Mineral-rich Katanga was of geostrategic importance, not least because of a mine in Katanga which produced the richest uranium in the world.

The UN's declaration that it could not rule out sabotage or murder and the request for any new evidence emerged in 2011, as a result of the publication of a book "Who Killed Hammarskjöld?" by Daniel James, "The UN, the Cold War and the Hidden Agenda in Africa."

The book drew on a mass of evidence that had been available for many years but had been dismissed by the UN and presented many new findings.

The disturbing compendium of evidence includes the testimony of Commander Charles Boisselle, a naval officer working for the UN Special Security Agency listening station in Cyprus in 1961, but heard the recording of a pilot's shopping until Hammarskjöld's plane.

British pilot Lord Lee of Cranbrook read the book and resolved to set up a new inquiry. In 2005, Professor K.C. Hammar, former Archivist of the Church of Sweden, went to Zambia with Hans Kristian Slimmen, a Norwegian researcher, and called on Sweden to set the case reviewed. In 2012 the Hammarskjöld inquiry that was formed, including Chief Justice Animashaun of Nigeria.

The Trust set up the Hammarskjöld Commission, an international group of four distinguished lawyers, chaired by former British Lord Justice of Appeal.

After a rigorous examination of the available evidence and interviews in Ndola with witnesses who were still alive, the commission concluded:

There was persuasive evidence that the aircraft was subjected to some form of attack or threat as it circled to land at Ndola... this was in fact forced into its descent by some form of hostile action.

It recommended that the UN conduct a further investigation and seek access to relevant records held by member states. The commission's report was made public on 9 September 2013. On the same day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced that he would closely study the findings.

Ban Ki-moon takes the lead

In March 2014, the Secretary-General asked the General Assembly to consider the matter further. This was welcomed by the growing worldwide campaign that had been developed, which urged the creation of a new inquiry. The movement was supported by sympathetic journalists, social media campaigns, individuals, and organizations, largely coordinated by the United Nations Association Westminster Branch in London.

http://www.hammarskjoldinquiry.info/

The Swedish government submitted a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly in October 2014, calling for a new investigation. This was strongly supported by Zambia.

On 20 December 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution, authorizing the Secretary-General to appoint an independent panel of experts to examine the evidence. Fifty-five nations joined Sweden to sponsor the resolution, which was adopted by the consensus of all 193 Member States.

On 16 March 2015, Ban Ki-moon announced a Panel of Experts, which was headed by Mohamed Chalde Othman, Chief Justice of Tanzania. Its report concluded that there was, indeed, significant information to warrant further inquiry into a possible armed attack or other interference as cause of the crash. It also introduced new areas to investigate, such as the possibility of Hammarskjöld's communications were intercepted.

On 2 July 2015, Ban Ki-moon circulated the report among member states and expressed the view that "a further inquiry or investigation would be necessary to finally establish the facts."

Following Ban Ki-moon’s recommendations, the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN circulated a draft resolution urging member states to release any relevant records in that possession. The draft resolution was supported by 54 other states – but not the US or the UK.

When the Secretary-General in August 2014 called on the forthcoming General Assembly to appoint an eminent person or persons to raise the inquiry forward, he attached an annex to his statement the responses by several member states to the UN’s earlier call for documentation. The action was a result of requests by South Africa to search for lost records relating to an alleged plot by mercenaries. They also reveal the incoherence of the relations of the UN and the UK.

Ban’s courage, dignity and humanity in this matter have been followed with heartfelt appreciation by those who care about justice and about the principles embodied in the UN Charter, which were advocated so vigorously by Hammarskjöld. It is to be hoped that Ban’s démarche will follow the same path, and with the same integrity and determination.

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