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TRIBUTES TO DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD

On September 18, Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced to the House of Commons the death of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and paid him the following tribute:

"...This is a tragic day in the history of the efforts that are being made for the maintenance of world peace. Mr. Hammarskjöld gave of his selfless best to the preservation of peace through the instrumentality of the United Nations. Throughout the ages men, and women too, have given their lives on behalf of the highest things of life. Mr. Hammarskjöld's death will take its place among the deaths of others throughout history who gave their all in order to achieve an ideal for which men have searched ever since the earliest days of history. I am sure I express the thoughts of all Hon. Members when I say that our hearts go out to those of his family who survive him, coupled with the hope that his death at this time of momentous importance in the history of the United Nations will not constitute an irreparable loss to the cause of freedom...."

"I should mention, too, that I am informed that a young woman employed by the United Nations, a young Canadian woman from the city of Montreal, was aboard the same aircraft...."

Mr. Diefenbaker was followed by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pearson, who spoke as follows:

"These are heavy and sad tidings which the Prime Minister has announced to us. I should like

to join with him in extending our sympathy to the families of Mr. Hammarskjöld and our Canadian colleague who worked in the Secretary-General's office--the young lady from Montreal.

"Dag Hammarskjöld died tragically and prematurely but, as I believe he would have wished, in the service of peace and the United Nations. I had the privilege of knowing him well for many years and the equal privilege of working with him closely at the United Nations during some difficult years in the development of the organization, so I think I am in a good position to appreciate the high character of the man and the great qualities of the statesman. He was indefatigable; he was wise; and he was entirely selfless in his devotion to his work. He was as sure and as resolute in carrying out instructions from the United Nations for international action in the cause of peace as he was skillful and objective in seeking to establish a basis for that action in the charter. As well as being an extremely dedicated servant of peace and the international community he was a most brilliant and cultivated gentleman and a good and loyal friend.

"The world can ill afford to lose such a great man, especially at this time. His life was a triumph of service and achievement, and his passing at the very height of his powers is a tragic loss. His death should inspire all of us to do what we can to secure the triumph of the cause for which he died, peace and security in the world through the United Nations."

(Over)