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Tribute to Dag Hammarskjöld by Mr. Howard Green
on September 20 in the United Nations General
Assembly.

This afternoon I am privileged to speak on behalf
of Australia and New Zealand as well as for my own country of
Canada. I propose to say just a few words about this tragic
incident which has taken the lives of our Secretary-General
and also of other faithful servants of the United Nations,
including one from Canada.

During the last two days I have wished that all
citizens of every country could be here in the United Nations
building just to feel and sense the impact of the death of the
Secretary-General. This impact, I am sure, reflects a
spontaneous response of peoples in all the lands who have come
to regard this dynamic and dedicated servant of the United
Nations as the key figure in contemporary international affairs.
For Canada his loss is a terrific one. We have worked very
closely with him down through the years, and in particular in
connection with the United Nations Emergency Force
in the Gaza Strip and more recently in the Congo operation.

We have admired so much his dedication to duty.
The journey during which he met his death is just one more
example of this man's dedication to duty. We remember how he
flew to Laos in 1959. Wherever there has been trouble he has
gone as quickly as it was possible for him to go regardless
of the danger incurred. We have admired his impartiality. We
have not always agreed with his decisions -- how could any
nation expect that the decisions would be as they would wish
them to be. We have admired his goodwill for all the people
of the world.

We believe that he has given inspiring world leader-
ship. Critical circumstances in world history have produced an
élite corps of great men who met the challenge of their time by
putting above all devotion to duty and the pursuit of an ideal.
Dag Hammarskjöld was clearly of this select company. His
influence on the organization may not be fully measurable until
well in the future, when historians have been able to assess
this period of such rapid change. But even today we are conscious
of the significant contributions which he made.

To my mind, three of these contributions are outstanding.
First and foremost, he gave substance to the concept that the
United Nations is the dynamic instrument of international diplomacy
and action. In doing so he sought to create an organization which
had vitality of its own and strength beyond the simple sum of its
parts. In the complexity of the present-day world, with its
continuing tensions and strife, there is such a clear need for
allowing this organization full scope for discharging its Charter
responsibilities. Today, the United Nations is the principal
remaining hope of mankind. In fact, I believe it is today the
only hope of mankind.