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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Tunisia - 1961

2 - 8 Aug.

Meredith, Brian (Dir., U.N. Information
Centre, Tunis)

- 1 letter from D.H.
- 1 letter to D.H.

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CENTRE D'INFORMATION



مركز الأمم المتحدة

DES NATIONS UNIES A TUNIS

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Tunis, le 8 August 19 61

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

Your letter of 2 August gives me the greatest confidence and pride, and I am deeply touched that you should have written it in the midst of your many and pressing problems.

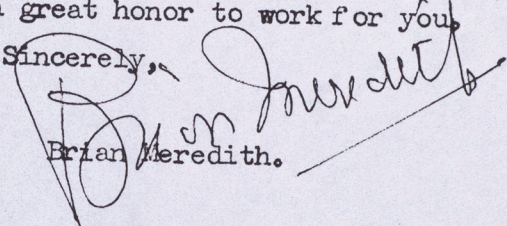
I was very pleased to be of any help in any capacity when you were here, and I am sure I speak for any member of the secretariat when I say that when you are, as you say, working on a razor's edge, any of us will willingly stand on our heads and like it, if that be required. Your policy of flexibility is one we take seriously!

The visit here did good beyond doubt, and I shudder to think what might otherwise have been the view of people here toward the organization, in the light of subsequent events.

Now I believe a main concern will be the filling of the voids created educationally, agriculturally and administratively by the recent departure of many teachers, experts, and officials. Even before Bizerta there was a recognized need in agriculture for more supervisory personnel. Perhaps the multilateral can help replace the bilateral.

It was a great joy to hear from you: it is a great honor to work for you.

Sincerely,


Brian Meredith.

Dag Hammarskjold, Esq.,
Secretary General,
United Nations, NY USA

P.S. Mrs. Goormaghtigh was profoundly pleased by your message.

2 August 1961

Dear Mr. Meredith,

On my return and when things have settled down a little, I wish to renew my thanks to you for an endlessly patient and helpful attitude of which I feel that I have badly abused not only by practically pushing you out of your office but also by expecting from you the handling of press contacts without any briefings and also practical odd jobs which certainly do not fall within the realm of your normal responsibilities. But it was all very much appreciated and I hope that you, on your side, understood that I was under considerable pressures and had to balance on a razor's edge. If only this expedition helped to straighten things out a bit, permitting the Tunisians to ease their very troubled minds and to maintain the confidence of the small boys in the straightness of the UN Secretariat even when it may mean a conflict with the big boys, I feel certain that both you and I will take whatever trouble and embarrassment we may have met with an easy heart.

Would you please also transmit to my excellent improvised secretary my very best thanks for her unfailing assistance also at the most odd hours.

As regards the question itself, I have no helpful nor, indeed, any encouraging comments to make. My deepest worry is the serious crisis of confidence which has resulted both from the political development and from actions in the field. There is much to be repaired, and the starting point for all UN officials must be to remain firmly on the basis of UN principles, thus saving what can be saved of the confidence at least in this aspect of the UN work. I know you see it yourself in this way, and I also know that this kind of moral courage is all that is needed and, indeed, expected by your hosts, who are mature enough to understand that, whatever our views or sympathies may be, it is in their own best interest that we act as international civil servants.

With kind regards,

Dag Hammarskjöld

Mr. Brian Meredith,
Director,
U.N. Information Centre,
Tunis, Tunisia.