

Congo. Dag Hammarskjöld's  
strictly personal  
correspondence: Congo. Dag  
Hamm...

*HS L 179:141*



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Congo - 1960

(personal)

3 Sept.

Desta, Alexander (Prince, Commander  
Imperial Ethiopian Navy)

- 1 letter to D.H.
- 1 letter from D.H., 20 Oct.

COMMANDER  
ALEXANDER DESTA  
IMP. ETH. NAVY  
ADDIS ABABA

September 3rd, 1960.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General,  
United Nations,  
New York, U.S.A.

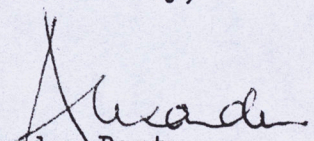
My dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

I really wish to tell you how much I admired your assistance and advice to the whole emergency that has arisen concerning the Congo and also the internal problems of Africa. I realise how difficult your task has been and I felt that I must write to you after having had the pleasure of your visit to our Navy Base in Massawa. I recollect with warm memories your kindness and understanding during your whole visit there and I have followed your movements since with much interest.

I hope that the United Nations will entrust in Ethiopia a more important role in the future as a mediator in these troubled times. I believe you have a good foundation for it in this country. Please use it while you can. I feel His Majesty would very much appreciate a strengthening of the nations and, perhaps, the formation of some sort of central committee in Addis Ababa to bring back to Africa a stability which it so much needs. May I add that these are my own personal views and, therefore, I feel that perhaps I might be slightly biased. However, I shall be eager to know your opinions when and if you have time.

Again, with deep appreciation of your warm understanding, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

  
Alexander Desta

AD:hc

20 October 1960

Dear Prince Alexander,

Although my reply to Your Highness' letter of 3 September 1960 comes rather late, I wish to assure you that I have given considerable thought to the questions you raise long before today.

May I first of all express my appreciation for Your Highness' kindness in referring to my own efforts concerning some African problems. I wish to state to you - as I have done publicly - that the efforts of the Secretary-General in regard to African problems depends foremost on the collaboration which he is able to maintain with African States. I need not emphasize that the co-operation which it has been my pleasure to receive from His Majesty Haile Selassie has been of the kind to sustain forcefully the efforts of the United Nations.

I wish to give further thought to the suggestions made in your letter, particularly in regard to the role which Ethiopia could play in securing greater stability in Africa. At this stage you will permit me to draw attention to one particular point.

Recent developments in the Congo have led me to the conclusion that His Majesty may wish to give urgent consideration to the establishment in Leopoldville, the Republic of the Congo, of an Ethiopian Embassy or Legation. As Your Highness is no doubt aware, there are presently many discussions being held among African envoys, accredited to the Republic of the Congo, which may have some important bearing on the future of that State. Participation of an Ethiopian envoy in such diplomatic activities may prove most constructive in that vital area of Africa.

Dag Hammarskjöld.

H.R.H. Prince Alexander Desta,  
Commander Imperial Ethiopian Navy,  
Addis Ababa.

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA



NATIONS UNIES  
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'AFRIQUE

ADUA SQUARE  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

CABLES: ECA, ADDIS ABABA  
P. O. Box 3001  
TELEPHONE 7000

DATE 24 October 1960

REFERENCE

My dear Commander Desta,

.....

I have much pleasure in forwarding to you herewith a letter which the Secretary-General has asked me to send to you.

With my best wishes and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mekki Abbas  
Executive Secretary

His Excellency  
Commander Alexander Desta  
Imperial Ethiopian Naval Forces  
Ministry of Defence  
Addis Ababa

cc: Office of the Secretary-General, New York