

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

*HS L 179:141*



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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Congo - 1961

(personal)

23 Feb.

Fawzi, Mahnoud (Egyptian Foreign  
Minister)

- 1 letter from Q.M. (via Omar Loutfi - Perm.  
Represent of UAR to the UN)

23 February 1961

PERSONAL

Dear Omar,

..... Enclosed, please find a letter for Dr. Fawzi, which I hope  
..... you will get through to him as quickly as possible. Were it to  
..... meet with difficulties, we can send it by our pouch. I attach,  
for your personal information, a copy.

*Letter returned by Loufi the same day  
and transmitted by UN pouch  
to Rytter, Cairo, on 24th, for  
personal handing over to Fawzi.*

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Mr. Omar Loufi,  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of the United Arab Republic  
to the United Nations,  
900 Park Avenue,  
New York, NY.

23 February 1961

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H.E. Mr. Omar Loutfi,  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of the United Arab Republic  
to the United Nations,  
900 Park Avenue,  
New York, NY.

23 February 1961

PERSONAL

Dear Mahmoud,

In front of me lies Omar Loutfi's invitation card for a reception today, your National Day. That reminds me of my intention to send you a few lines about recent developments which have shed a cruel light on the standards of integrity and courage in present international life.

I am sure that you, like myself, have followed with interest the evolution of tactics in the effort of a certain group to widen its influence. It is not only a question of distorting facts as soon as you believe that they may be forgotten, but also a question of picking up old correct facts to which previously there has been no reaction, and fitting them into a totally new picture so as to make them take on a totally new and utterly unjustified significance. That of course is combined with intimidation based on the experience that few countries and few persons are guided by so strong inner criteria that they will not give in to pressure, continued for a sufficient time and concentrated on their feeling of safety and self respect.

Nothing of this is in any way surprising, although I think it is the first time that this method, thoroughly tried on the national scene, is tested on a broad international scale. Nor is it surprising how comparatively successful this testing proves to be, but it is saddening because it shows that, as on many previous occasions, the final outcome will depend on very few.

I am of course rather hardened, especially by beatings which I took from France and Israel and, to lesser extent, from the British over one year or more when I threw all our resources in back of the resistance against attempts to turn the clock backward, around and after Suez. Also, it is not the beatings which matter now. I feel much more strongly the absence of support from quarters who, of course, know the full story.

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Naturally, I see the political bargaining back of the UAR abstention on the Soviet resolution, and, naturally I understand why it was considered wise not to mention the Secretary-General in the UAR sponsored resolution -- although I think that it was a great tactical mistake -- and, naturally, I understand that Loutfi (and the other sponsors) found it difficult to say anything when Zorin in the debate interpreted this omission as an expression of no confidence. But, it must be sad to have to bow in this way, with fresh memory of your own experiences. For me, your doing so is still something I have to get over.

The world goes on, and the man about whom I had the privilege to talk with President Nasser at the luncheon out on Long Island is dead. I remember well the President's frank evaluation which was so realistic. Sorry I did not get a chance to compare notes with him again, and hear what, if anything, has changed his evaluation.

Yes, the world goes on, and we have to try to mend fences and to stop gaps and to forget in order to permit things to move forward. I am certain that you are aware that only an ultimate and hard tested sense of duty not to desert the ship in a storm keeps me prisoner here. But even a prisoner in that position should have access to sporadic radio communication, and that is really the reason for this message.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Fawzi and with the hope that we two may get a chance to talk this out before too long,