

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

HS L 179:141



Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

Congo - 1961

16 March

Fawzi, Mahmoud (Foreign Minister of Egypt)

- 1 letter to D.H., 1961



MINISTÈRE
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
CABINET DU MINISTRE

Le Caire le, 16 March 1961

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Personal & Confidential:

Dear Dag,

With a few exceptions, or rather with the exception of a few, everyone has been overtaken by events of and in relation to the Congo during the recent weeks. I have before me your letter of the 23rd. of last February followed by the one you sent me on the first of this month which takes the aspect of a mild anti climax. I have also in mind some echoes which have just reached me here in Cairo and to which I am spontaneously responsive.

I ask leave, meantime, to say, unequivocally as usual, a few words regarding the, to some, seemingly equivocal Congo developments; and I wish to refer particularly to the position of the U.A.R. during the recent debates in the Security Council, that you referred to and commented upon in your letter of the 23rd. of February. That position was inspired by our desire to limit the debate to the Congo problem and allow no scope for any deviationary move and for the consideration of the question of the Secretary General. We have, therefore, co-sponsored, too, a draft resolution which made no reference to the Secretary General, but was kept within the bounds of the main problem. It was our conviction, and it is more firmly as at present, that such tactics would exclude all real discussion, during that debate, concerning the confidence or otherwise in the Secretary General, and would help in making it possible for the Council to come out with a constructive resolution relating to the Congo.

Now that such resolution has been adopted, we are all, as often before, faced with the usual and mostly artificial dilemma of implementation; and this is the more so since the



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recent moves by the forces and tools of disruption from within the Congo and from without. These moves have put an added, though not new, challenge before us, as countries and as United Nations, and have made it more imperative as well as urgent that ways and means be found to command respect for the clearly expressed resolutions of our Organisation in behalf of the independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Congo. I am saying this even at the risk of seeming to be redundant, and I feel confident that many share the view that the evil powers of reaction and of short sighted covetousness must never be allowed to foil the honest efforts which have been made, and to manoeuvre the United Nations, together with the Congo, out of sanity and certain decencies of human life. In this connection, it is our view, which I assume is equally yours, that it encumbs principally upon the Security Council to follow up the implementation of its own resolutions. For this, and especially after the recent Congo developments, we have been considering, as you know already, the matter of requesting that the Council be convened immediately for the purpose of deciding the necessary measures. I am, reluctantly and with regret, putting so many words about the obvious, because of the devious and feverish efforts of those who are purposely contending it and are trying to supersede naturalness with artificially created situations. We who live in this area of the world, feel and resent this more vividly than most others, in the light of our own experience. I am painfully aware that these words are not merely bitter but are harder, being a reflection of reality.

So far I have said nothing of your official message of last February 25th. regarding renewed participation in the United Nations Forces in the Congo, as that, with little prospect at this moment, is still the subject of careful thought here.



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As you have guessed some time ago, it did not seem likely or required that I should go to New York these days. Later considerations may bring a change to this, with the consequent risk for you of seeing me soon again in Manhattan. Whether it will be so or not, you have best greetings from all and among them.

Mahmoud

His Excellency,
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York.