It is with a full heart that I speak on behalf of the specialized agencies of the United Nations family having their headquarters in Geneva to this assembly gathered here today to honour the memory of Dag Hammarskjöld and those who perished with him so suddenly and so tragically.

In paying tribute to their leader we will remember each of those who with him lost their lives on his last mission. Mr Hammarskjöld we know, had no fear of death, especially when pursuing his appointed task, for as long ago as 1955 he said -

"It is for us a privilege to serve the community of nations. We do not ask for wider powers, but we are ready to accept fully all the responsibilities that the Member Governments may entrust to us. We are willing to risk our personal peace and security and welfare if this can help world peace, world security and world welfare."

As members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination we, the heads of the specialized agencies, came to know Mr Hammarskjöld the man and Mr Hammarskjöld the Secretary-General perhaps better than most. I for one, shall always remember with a sense of gratitude the résumés the Secretary-General gave during the executive sessions of our meetings. In brilliant concise statements he told of the problems facing the world as he saw them, and gave us an insight into his concept of the role the United Nations should play if peace was to be maintained. And we his colleagues had among ourselves nothing but praise and admiration for the clarity of his thinking, the subtlety of his intellect, his political realism and his far-reaching vision.

Even if, as could often happen, one did not entirely agree with him, one could not help but admire the purposefulness with which he pursued what he deemed to be right. He had many ideas about the way in which socio-economic problems should be faced and he pursued those ideas relentlessly but cleverly and understandingly adapting them, as expediency, to ensure that they were ultimately generally acceptable.
During our meetings of the AOC we also had opportunities to know Hammarskjöld the man, a modest man with an often unexpected sense of humour, a depth of feeling, and an amazing intellectual versatility. Contrary to common belief he was not a cold man. He was, in fact, a man of deep emotions, emotions kept under control by a will of iron. His extraordinary capacity for work was matched by an equally remarkable capacity for relaxation when work was done. He had no family life to which he could escape from the strains and stresses of his eminent position. He allowed himself no holidays in which to indulge in his once much-loved pastime of mountaineering, so he took refuge in and refreshment from music, modern painting and literature. His love of literature was such that it was his joy to translate both prose and poetry into his native tongue and he found constant pleasure in such authors as Proust, T.S. Eliot, Joyce, Hemingway, Camus, Imler and St. John Perse. It is not surprising therefore that he was made a member of the Swedish Academy of Literature and took an active part in the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Nor was it surprising that he opened the doors of the United Nations not only to modern paintings but also to the world's greatest plays and music.

But above all Mr. Hammarskjöld was a man of integrity, and you will remember what he said at John Hopkins University when speaking on international service. I believe he spoke from his heart when he said:

"What is true in a life of action, like that of a politician or a diplomat, is true also in intellectual activities. Even a genius never achieves a lasting result in science without patience and hard work; just as in politics the results of the work of the most brilliant mind will ultimately find their value determined by character. Those who are called to be teachers or leaders may profit from intelligence but can only justify their position by integrity."

While this afternoon we remember Mr. Hammarskjöld and those who died with him and think with sympathy of those bereaved, let us not forget the loss Sweden has suffered. Exactly thirteen years ago one of her illustrious sons, Count Folke Bernadotte, was assassinated in the course of his United Nations missions in Palestine. This year another is killed pursuing with his usual energy and tenacity the aims of the United Nations to which he was dedicated. I cannot help remembering today that empty office which I saw in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm some years ago now. It was the office Mr. Hammarskjöld occupied before his appointment as Secretary General. No one occupied it while he was away and all was kept in readiness for him against his return.

Let us, in the words of Mr. Morse, honour the memory of those we have lost by working with renewed endeavour to ensure the future of the United Nations family and to continue the work they were doing for the betterment of international co-operation and the maintenance of peace. As we re-dedicate ourselves to our tasks let us remember Mr. Hammarskjöld's words when he accepted a second term of office. He said:

"The many who, together, form this Organization - peoples, governments and individuals - share one great responsibility. Future generations may come to say of us that we never achieved what we set out to do. May they never be entitled to say that we failed because we lacked faith or permitted narrow self-interest to distort our efforts."

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Let us also never forget the selfless endeavour of Dag Hammarskjöld who was so rightly described by the Public Orator at Cambridge as:

This rare spirit who spurning partiality or fear has sought for the union of all people."

"QUI EXCELSUS ET AB OMNI CONTAGIONE SIVE FAVORIS SIVE TIMORIS REMOTUS GENTIUM CONCORDIAE CONSULAT".