

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1623 (XVI). Admission of Sierra Leone to membership in the United Nations (27 September 1961) (item 92).....	63
1628 (XVI). An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld and of members of the party accompanying him (26 October 1961) (item 93).....	63
1630 (XVI). Admission of the Mongolian People's Republic to membership in the United Nations (27 October 1961) (item 92).....	64
1631 (XVI). Admission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to membership in the United Nations (27 October 1961) (item 92).....	64
1640 (XVI). Appointment of an acting Secretary-General (3 November 1961)...	64
1650 (XVI). The status of Algerians imprisoned in France (15 November 1961) (item 88)	64
1651 (XVI). Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (23 November 1961) (item 14).....	65
1654 (XVI). The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (27 November 1961) (item 88).....	65
1667 (XVI). Admission of Tanganyika to membership in the United Nations (14 December 1961) (item 92).....	66
1668 (XVI). Representation of China in the United Nations (15 December 1961) (items 90 and 91).....	66
1669 (XVI). Report of the Security Council (15 December 1961) (item 11).....	66
1670 (XVI). Report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter (15 December 1961) (item 18).....	66
1723 (XVI). Question of Tibet (20 December 1961) (item 83).....	66
1741 (XVI). Question of Hungary (20 December 1961) (item 89).....	66
1742 (XVI). The situation in Angola (30 January 1962) (item 27).....	67

1623 (XVI). Admission of Sierra Leone to membership in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having received the recommendation of the Security Council of 26 September 1961 that Sierra Leone should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,¹

Having considered the application for membership of Sierra Leone,²

Decides to admit Sierra Leone to membership in the United Nations.

*1018th plenary meeting,
27 September 1961.*

1628 (XVI). An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld and of members of the party accompanying him

The General Assembly,

Recalling that on 18 September 1961 the aircraft

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 92, document A/4888.*

² *Ibid.*, document A/4763.

carrying Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General, and fifteen United Nations officials on a mission in the service of the United Nations crashed in the vicinity of the Ndola airport in Northern Rhodesia resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Hammarskjöld and his entire party,

Having regard to the world-wide public concern over the disastrous end of this flight, undertaken on behalf, and in the service, of the United Nations,

Noting that much concern prevails in the world in regard to both this tragedy and the circumstances surrounding it, which warrant an international investigation, the absence of which can only lead to the continuance of the present undesirable speculation,

Noting further that inquiries have been or are being conducted by Governments or parties concerned,

Considering it desirable and necessary that, irrespective of such inquiries, an investigation of such incidents, which concern the United Nations, should be carried out under the authority and auspices of the United Nations,

1. *Expresses its profound shock and sorrow* at the death of Mr. Hammarskjöld and the following persons

who died with him in the service of the United Nations as a result of the air crash:

Mr. Heinrich A. Wieschhoff,
Mr. Vladimir Fabry,
Mr. William Ranallo,
Miss Alice Lalande,
Mr. Harold M. Julien,
Mr. Serge L. Barrau,
Mr. Francis Eivers,
Mr. S. O. Hjelte,
Mr. P. E. Persson,
Mr. Per Hallonquist,
Mr. Nils-Eric Aahréus,
Mr. Lars Litton,
Mr. Nils Göran Wilhelmsson,
Mr. Harold Noork,
Mr. Karl Erik Rosén;

2. Offers its sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the families of Mr. Hammarskjöld and the other victims;

3. Decides that an investigation of an international character, under the auspices of the United Nations, should be held immediately into all the conditions and circumstances surrounding this tragedy, and more particularly as to:

(a) Why the flight had to be undertaken at night without escort;

(b) Why its arrival at Ndola was unduly delayed, as reported;

(c) Whether the aircraft, after having established contact with the tower at Ndola lost that contact, and the fact of its having crashed did not become known until several hours afterwards, and if so, why;

(d) Whether the aircraft, after the damage it was reported to have suffered earlier from firing by aircraft hostile to the United Nations, was in a proper condition for use;

4. Further decides to appoint a Commission of five eminent persons to carry out such an investigation, and request the Commission to report its findings to the President of the General Assembly within three months of its appointment;

5. Requests all Governments and parties concerned and the appropriate specialized agencies of the United Nations to extend their full co-operation and assistance to the said Commission in making this investigation;

6. Decides to consider, in the appropriate Committee during the current session, the question of offering suitable remuneration to the families of the victims of this grave tragedy.

1042nd plenary meeting,
26 October 1961.

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At its 1074th plenary meeting, on 8 December 1961, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the President of the Assembly, appointed the members of the Commission established under paragraph 4 of the above resolution.

The Commission is composed as follows: Mr. S. B. Jones (Sierra Leone), Mr. Raúl Quijano (Argentina), Mr. Alfred Emil Sandström (Sweden), Mr. Rishikesh Shaha (Nepal) and Mr. Nikola Srzentić (Yugoslavia).

1630 (XVI). Admission of the Mongolian People's Republic to membership in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having received the recommendation of the Security Council of 25 October 1961 that the Mongolian People's Republic should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,³

Having considered the application for membership of the Mongolian People's Republic,⁴

Decides to admit the Mongolian People's Republic to membership in the United Nations.

1043rd plenary meeting,
27 October 1961.

1631 (XVI). Admission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to membership in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having received the recommendation of the Security Council of 25 October 1961 that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,⁵

Having considered the application for membership of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania,⁶

Decides to admit the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to membership in the United Nations.

1043rd plenary meeting,
27 October 1961.

1640 (XVI). Appointment of an acting Secretary-General

The General Assembly,

Acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Security Council of 3 November 1961,⁷

Appoints His Excellency U Thant as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office ending on 10 April 1963.

1046th plenary meeting,
3 November 1961.

1650 (XVI). The status of Algerians imprisoned in France

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the grave international repercussions and the serious threat to the prospects of a negotiated, peaceful settlement of the Algerian question in consequence of the hunger strike of thousands of Algerians imprisoned in France,

³ Ibid., document A/4940.

⁴ See documents A/687 and Add.1; *Official Records of the Security Council, First Year, Second Series, Supplement No. 4*, annex 6, document S/95, and *Ibid.*, *Twelfth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1957*, documents S/3873 and Add.1.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 92, document A/4941.

⁶ Ibid., document A/4604.

⁷ Ibid., *Annexes*, separate fascicle (Appointment of an acting Secretary-General), document A/4953.