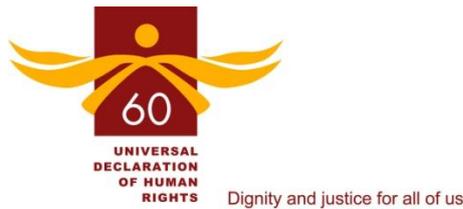


United Nations Association

Westminster Branch

Campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN



The Hammarskjöld Commission Report: Ensuring a UN General Assembly debate on 15 December

News Update 4

3 December 2014

Irish 'Congo vet' urges Dublin to support re-opening of Inquiry

John Wickham who served with C Company, 38th Battalion, of the Irish Defence Forces deployed to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) has met HE Mr Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's ambassador in London, to urge that Ireland participate in the UN General Assembly debate on 15 December.



Mr Wickham, who over many years has followed closely the various reports and analyses relating to the death of Dag Hammarskjöld, and Mr Mulhall discussed how the ONUC mission in which there were 27 Irish fatalities, witnessed Ireland's Defence Forces come of age and take its place on the international stage. This difficult and traumatic mission in which the Irish troops' performance and even-handedness in dealing

with all parties was highly praised, earned them a new respect within the UN. Noting that many Irish citizens like himself will remember their own experiences in the Congo, Mr Wickham urged that Ireland had a moral obligation to show both its own citizens, young and old, that it truly wishes to determine what happened at Ndola where the plane carrying Dag Hammarskjöld and fifteen others crashed.

Mr Mulhall asked questions concerning the Report of the Hammarskjöld Commission in discussion with David Wardrop who also attended the meeting. Mr Wardrop chairs the United Nations Association Westminster Branch which is co-ordinating efforts to encourage UN Member States to participate in the debate on 15 December. Mr Mulhall agreed to take forward Mr Wickham's requests and to keep informed of developments.