

# Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

Dag Hammarskjöld 2016-56

ID Code [2016-56]

## 1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

*Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.*

*This is the “shop window” of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961) is one of the best known Swedes internationally. He was Secretary-General of the United Nations from 10 April 1953 until 18 September 1961 when he died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo.

After his death in 1961, his Collection (The Dag Hammarskjöld Collection/Dag Hammarskjölds samling), consisting mainly of documents, dossiers concerning the UN activities, manuscripts and letters, personal “reference files” with documents and memoranda on world political matters, was donated to Kungliga Biblioteket (KB)/The National Library of Sweden in accordance with his will. The Collection documents the work and influence of Hammarskjöld and shows the Government official as well as the private person.

The Collection has served as the basis for research on Dag Hammarskjöld and the UN. It covers a significant period of the UN’s history and is of great importance for the understanding of the post Second World War history and the Cold War.

The Hammarskjöld Collection is mainly in the English language, the size of the Collection is approx 45 running meters and it is principally organized according to the different conflict zones.

The archival list is to be found on the internet and the Collection is freely available to all.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Collection is hereby suggested for nomination to the international register of UNESCO’s Memory of the World programme.

## 2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Kungliga biblioteket (KB)/(The National Library of Sweden). The National Library of Sweden has been collecting virtually everything printed in Sweden or in Swedish since 1661. KB also collects TV and radio programs, movies and videos distributed in Sweden, Swedish music and computer games. The National Library is a humanities research library that purchases and acquires scholarly publications in several

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languages as well as manuscripts and archives. Our collections can be accessed by visiting the library or in certain cases through online services. KB coordinate services and programs for all publicly funded libraries in Sweden and administer and develop the national library catalog system, Libris.

The National Library of Sweden is a state agency with a staff of about 320 people and our main offices are in Stockholm.

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## 2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

KB/ The National Library of Sweden has received the Dag Hammarskjöld Collection in accordance with the will of Dag Hammarskjöld.

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## 2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Gunilla Herdenberg, National librarian

Ingrid Svensson, senior librarian

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## 2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
Kungliga biblioteket	Box 5039, S-10241 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+46(0)107093600 (Herdenberg)	+46(0)107093925	<a href="mailto:Gunilla.herdenberg@kb.se">Gunilla.herdenberg@kb.se</a>
+46(0)107093341(Svensson)		Ingrid.svensson@kb.se

## 3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

### 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

**If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given**

*In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.*

The Dag Hammarskjöld Collection (Dag Hammarskjölds samling), Kungliga biblioteket (KB)/The National Library of Sweden, is listed as L 179 in the inventory of the manuscript collections, Division of Manuscripts, Maps and Pictures at KB. The Collection is owned by the Swedish state and kept in custody at KB.

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### 3.4 History/provenance

*Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give you can.*

The documents from the UN period and likewise some older papers were kept at Dag

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Hammarskjöld's home and office in New York. The majority of the older papers and correspondence have been cared for by his family in Sweden.

Dag Hammarskjöld's will from 1959 stated that his archives should be donated to KB. The donation was delivered to KB from the end of 1961 and during 1962.

Later accessed documents are added to the Collection.

The Collection start in 1909 and end in 1987, the last year for Ambassador Per Lind's papers concerning the transfer of Dag Hammarskjöld's personal papers from New York to the National Library in Stockholm, donated to the library in 1995.

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#### 4.0 Legal information

##### 4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

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Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
The Swedish State through KB	Box 5039, S-10241 Stockholm, Sweden	+46(0)107093000	+46(0)107093925	Kungl.biblioteket@kb.se

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##### 4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

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Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
National librarian Gunilla Herdenberg		+46(0)7093600		Gunilla.herdenberg@kb.se

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##### 4.3 Legal status

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Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

Legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation: Head of Collection Care, Physical Collections Department, Charlotte Ahlgren, [charlotte.ahlgren@kb.se](mailto:charlotte.ahlgren@kb.se)  
+46(0)107093322.

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##### 4.4 Accessibility

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Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

The Collection is freely accessible to everyone who is 18 years old and has a library card.

The Collection is accessible for studies in the Special Reading Room. Opening hours: Monday–Tuesday: 09:00 am–5:00 pm, Wednesday: 09:00 am–7:00 pm, Thursday–Friday: 09:00 am–5:00 pm, Saturday: 11:00 pm–3:00 pm. Access to the reading room is free of charge as is consulting the reading room staff.

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All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

*Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.*

Digitization is accomplished in a restricted extent.

The only items in the whole Collection with restricted access are the photos taken after Hammarskjölds death. They are accessible only by permission from the Hammarskjöld family.

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#### 4.5 Copyright status

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Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

Reproduction is restricted according to EU copyright laws.

Copyright is held by the correspondents subject to these laws.

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### 5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

#### 5.1 Authenticity.

*Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?*

The authenticity of the Collection is guaranteed by the fact that it comes from the office of Dag Hammarskjöld and from his heirs immediately after the death of Hammarskjöld; the nature of the Collection, its legal character and the structure of the material attest to the provenance.

Hammarskjöld's close collaborator Per Lind was commissioned to appraise an opinion of the Collection.

Concerning later acquisitions there has been contacts with the Hammarskjöld family.

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#### 5.2 World significance

*Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a*

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*particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?*

The Collection has a great influence on the course of understanding the political history. Dag Hammarskjöld's influence crosses cultural, ethnical, political and social boundaries. This is reflected in the Collection, which contains material from all periods and activities in the life of Dag Hammarskjöld.

The Collection consists partly of copies of received and forwarded writ and a large number of notes for private use.

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### **5.3 Comparative criteria:**

***Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)***

#### **1 Time**

*Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the "first of its kind"?*

It reflects a significant period in world history as well as the history of the United Nations. The Collection is a good representative of its time. It reflects a period in our history with many conflicts and can help us to understand the course of events. The Collection reflects the work within the United Nations.

#### **2 Place**

*Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?*

The Collection contains crucial information about countries within the scope of Hammarskjöld's responsibility and shows his endeavour to prevent war and serve the other aims of the Charter.

It shows his diplomatic activity in support of the Agreements between Israel and the Arab States and the efforts made to promote a more peaceful situation in the region, the organization of the UN's Emergency Force (UNEF), the assistance provided to create a solution of the Suez Canal dispute, the work with the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) and the activities in Jordan. Hammarskjöld traveled to many countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East to further his knowledge of the problems of various regions. In 1960, President Joseph Kasavubu and Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Republic of the Congo wanted an "urgent dispatch" of United Nations military assistance to the Congo. The UN's Force was engaged in Congo and Hammarskjöld made four tours to Congo. The fourth journey terminated in the plane crash.

#### **3 People**

*Does the cultural context of the document's creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements,*

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*transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?*

The Collection illustrates the life of a prominent individual and significant aspects of political development. As a collection covering different aspects and fields and containing heterogeneous material such as letters, interviews, testimonies etc, it allows researchers and the public to raise questions about many issues.

#### **4 Subject and theme**

*Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?*

The Collection is of great significance, as it documents the work, the politics and the ideology of the United Nations from its Secretary- General's point of view. He considered the UN as a dynamic instrument for peace and development and the many-sided Collection is a testimony to that.

The major part of the Collection is written in the English language.

#### **5 Form and style**

*Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?*

The value of the Collection is within the political, ethical and historical field rather than within the form and style area.

#### **6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:**

*Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?*

*(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)*

### **6.0 Contextual information**

#### **6.1 Rarity**

The collection consists of original manuscripts, letters and photographs but there are also copies of originals in other archives and there are items which correspond with items in other archives.

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There are other prominent archives with Hammarskjöld material.

United Nations Archives: the archives consist of a small portion of the records of Dag Hammarskjöld, i.e. those which were left at the Secretariat after selected records were transferred to Andrew Cordier and/or Sweden. Most of Hammarskjöld's records are held at KB.

[https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015\\_Finding\\_Aids/AG-001.pdf](https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015_Finding_Aids/AG-001.pdf)

At the Columbia University Library Rare Book and Manuscript Division there are Hammarskjöld records held within the Andrew Cordier Papers.

The National Library of Sweden has the largest and most comprehensive Dag Hammarskjöld archive, The Dag Hammarskjöld Collection. It is *The Archive*. It consists of 264 boxes with between 680 to 900 documents in each box therefore it is difficult to elucidate the possibility that there are individual copies of original documents from the UN Archives or the archive at Colombia University in the DH Collection in the National Library of Sweden. See attached file with archival list from the UN Archives, which establish that "Most of Secretary-General Hammarskjöld's records are held by the Department of Manuscripts at the National Library of Sweden". In the UN Archives there are Miscellaneous administrative records 1948-1964, Miscellaneous operational records 1953-1961, Minutes of the Secretary-General's private meetings with the Under-Secretaries-General 1946-1958 and Press releases 1953-1961. We also attach the archival list from the National Library as pdf together with information about the archive at Colombia University, where Secretary-General Hammarskjöld archives are held within the Andrew Cordier Papers: Trips and trip files, 1953-1961, Miscellaneous, 1953-1961; Subject files, 1946-1961; peacekeeping and crisis files, 1953-1961.

## **6.2 Integrity**

As far as we know, documents have not been removed from their archival series.

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