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CHAGALL STAINED GLASS PANEL UNVEILED AS STAFF MEMORIAL  
TO DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AND THOSE WHO DIED WITH HIM

As a memorial to Dag Hammarskjold, the late Secretary-General, and 15 others who died with him in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia exactly three years ago, a stained glass panel, the work of French artist Marc Chagall -- expressing in symbolic forms and designs man's yearning for peace -- was unveiled this afternoon at United Nations Headquarters.

The memorial was made possible by donations given by United Nations staff members through out the world, in response to an appeal launched by a committee of the United Nations Staff Council.

The work of art was presented to U Thant, the Secretary-General, by Basile Yakovlev, Chairman of the Staff Committee, at a ceremony this afternoon in the lobby of the Secretariat building, where the stained glass panel is placed. A statement was also made by Mr. Chagall, who contributed the design for the memorial.

Statements at Ceremony

Mr. Yakovlev, in making the presentation on behalf of the staff, said "this is our act of faith in the United Nations -- an expression of our conviction that those who died ... did not die in vain".

Mr. Chagall, the second speaker at the ceremony, stated that "with all my soul, I wanted to convey the extent of my inspiration and the inspiration of Dag Hammarskjold and of all those who died for peace. For that was the very purpose for which the United Nations was founded".

"These colours and these forms", he added, "must show, in the end, our dreams of human happiness, as we conceive it today." The panel, about 15 feet wide and 12 feet high, depicts conceptions of the artist on the themes of peace and man.

Mr. Chagall continued: "On the right-hand side of this panel, you will see mankind, with its yearning for peace, its prophets and its victims. In

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the centre is the symbol of peace itself. On the left, above and below, are depicted motherhood and the people who are struggling for peace."

"The main thing is not to see it but to feel it", he added.

U Thant, in receiving the panel, said: "This beautiful memorial to Dag Hammarskjold and to his companions becomes today a living part of our own awareness of the meaning and purpose of the United Nations."

The Secretary-General stated that, "in expressing man's yearning for peace and brotherhood, and his readiness to lay down his life in his search for these ideals, Marc Chagall has depicted that enduring spiritual reality which gives depth and meaning to human life and to all our efforts, both in the United Nations and outside it, to make this world a safer and better place for all."

He added: "In accepting this magnificent work of art, I wish to thank Marc Chagall and all the members of the staff whose joint gift it is. I wish to congratulate all those who had a share in it, particularly Charles Marq, who translated Marc Chagall's visual poetry into glass, and I should also like to thank all those whose generosity has helped to make this event possible."

(The text of U Thant's statement appears in Press Release SG/SM/153.)

A plaque placed near the stained glass memorial contains the names of Mr. Hammarskjold, the seven United Nations staff members and two Swedish soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in the Congo, and six Swedish crew members of the aircraft, all of whom died in the plane crash at Ndola, Northern Rhodesia, on 17 September 1961.

They were: H.A. Wieschhoff, Vladimir Fabry, William Ranallo, Alice Lalande, Harold M. Julien, Serge L. Barrau, Francis Eivers, Per Hallonquist, Nils-Eric Aahreus, Lars Litton, Harald Noork, Nils G. Wilhelmsson, Karl Erik Rosen, S.O. Hjelte and P.E. Persson.

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