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BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

*Dag Hammarskjold
A visionary of peace*



under the auspices
of the President of the Hellenic Republic
Mr. Karolos Papoulias

Thursday, 16 June 2005, from 18:00 to 20:00
Zappeion Hall

Dag Hammarskjold Centenary

Dag Hammarskjold was born on 29 July 1905 in Jonkoping in south-central Sweden. A leading economist and statesman, 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.

He was first elected Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1953, receiving fifty-seven votes out of sixty. Before turning to the world problems awaiting him, he established a strong base of operations by affirming the independence of the UN's Secretariat from narrowly conceived national interests, therefore enhancing its prestige and effectiveness. During the Suez Canal crisis of 1956, and in all his efforts to help the troubled regions of the world, he exercised his own personal diplomacy with the nations involved and, under the UN's mandate, commissioned the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), the first ever to be mobilised by an international organisation.

Dag Hammarskjold defended and developed international law against power politics. He was convinced that peace can only be achieved within the framework of international law, and human rights can only be fully respected, defended and developed within the framework of peace. He was posthumously awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1961.

*Ambassador Kai Falkman, distinguished diplomat and B.I.O. Trustee, has held diplomatic posts in Tokyo, London, Geneva, Lisbon, Luanda, Istanbul, and Oceania. He is President of the Swedish Haiku Society and author of several publications, including: *The Diplomatic Bag* (1972), *Robot and Meaning* (1980), *The Face of Japan* (1985), *Stories of the Spring Rain, Haiku Translations* (1987), *Turkey/Frontier Prince* (1995), *April Snow, Swedish-Japanese Haiku Anthology* (2000), *An Untouched String, Dag Hammarskjold's life in Haiku and Photography* (2005).*

Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and a leading scholar in medicine, biophysics and microbiology, Professor Carl-Goran Heden has held several academic posts at the Karolinska Institute, including Sweden's first Chair in Biotechnology. In 1986 he took early retirement to concentrate on international science policy, an interest developed while serving as the first active Chairman of UNEP/UNESCO/ICRO's Panel on Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology. In 1992 he launched the Biofocus Foundation to encourage the use of modern biotechnology to reduce the growing gap between wealth and want, and to promote entrepreneurship in harmony with local resources, needs, and markets.

Programme

*under the auspices of the President of the Hellenic Republic
Mr. Karolos Papoulias*

18:00 - 18:15 Greeting by Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis
B.I.O. President and Founder

18:15 - 18:30 Greeting by Professor Carl-Goran Heden
Member, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Founder, Biofocus Foundation

18:30 - 19:20 Book presentation by Ambassador Kai Falkman
To speak for the world - a selection of speeches and statements by Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations 1953-1961

19:20 - 20:00 Discussion and closing remarks

A vision for peace

It is a great joy and privilege to be hosting this book presentation in celebration of Dag Hammarskjold's Centenary and to honour the ideals and contribution of a unique leader who combined moral force with subtlety in meeting international challenges. A beacon of hope and peace, his noble legacy is a tribute to international cooperation, human rights, and a better quality of life for all citizens.

B.I.O. promotes a vision for peace based on respect and appreciation for life. Dag Hammarskjold's time-spanning personality can inspire this vision and pave the way for new values for a harmonious global society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the B.I.O. sponsors for 2004-2005, and especially Mrs. Irene Vassilopoulou for lending her support for this event.

*Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis
B.I.O. President and Founder*