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(Summary prepared by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library)

Sir Brian painted a portrait of Dag Hammarskjöld, the private man and the public man. He started by saying that Dag Hammarskjöld would have been delighted by the symposium, as he was passionate about books and libraries. Not long after taking up his post as Secretary-General in 1953, he stood gazing from his window high in the new United Nations Secretariat building and saw below, at one corner of the grounds, an ugly concrete block of a building, which had served as a temporary office building during World War II. This he designated as the site of the future library. He felt strongly that an institution without a library was not a serious one. A scholar and intellectual, had he lived, Dag Hammarskjöld undoubtedly would have spent much time there, so the Library is a fitting memorial.

Hammarskjöld was very protective of both his time and privacy. The companions of his leisure were the arts, especially books. As a member of the Swedish Academy committee that awards the Nobel Prize for literature and completely fluent in four languages, he read books from all over the world and set aside two hours for this purpose every day. He also translated—mainly very obscure and difficult—literary works into Swedish; when he died he was translating Martin Buber's I and Thou. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of contemporary art and brought many beautiful objects into the United Nations building.

When he arrived in New York in 1953, Dag Hammarskjöld looked incredibly young, but his rather shy, quiet demeanour masked a formidable will and tremendous determination. Passionate about the goals of the United Nations, he was an intellectual in action who had an extremely well-thought-out, ambitious, long-term view of the new Organization—into which he managed to incorporate his brilliant resolution, through quiet diplom

triggering a wider conflict between the nuclear powers. Brilliant and courageous, he displayed such a capacity for leadership that the press took to trumpeting the slogan, "Leave it to Dag". This was a rather dangerous noti