

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. YOSHIYUKI MOTOMURA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD LIBRARY**

1 March 2002

Mr. Tharoor, Interim Head of DPI

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I deem it an honor to have this opportunity to offer some brief remarks at this opening ceremony of the 40th anniversary symposium on the Dag Hammarskjold Library. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Tharoor and the staff of the DPI for preparing today's event.

It was Secretary-General Hammarskjold who recognized the need to establish a library at the United Nations and who oversaw every detail of its planning and construction. Although he met an untimely and tragic death in 1961 before it was completed, the UN Member States honored his memory and his many contributions to the Organization by naming the Library after him.

From its very beginning, the Dag Hammarskjold Library has served the information needs of the staffs of UN permanent missions and the Secretariat. Its vast collections, including the entire range of UN documents and publications, as well as its reference service, have made it an invaluable resource for delegations.

It is my understanding that senior-level researchers and academicians

from other institutions are also permitted access to its materials which may not be available elsewhere. Indeed, the Dag Hammarskjold Library is widely recognized as the primary source of information for academic researchers studying the United Nations.

In addition, I have recently learned of efforts to enhance the role of the UN depository library system. If a national or major public library is designated as an official United Nations depository library, it will receive every document and publication of the United Nations. There are now 408 such libraries in 143 Member States, enabling the citizens of those countries to gain knowledge of UN activities and a deeper understanding of its purposes. At the same time the UN depository library system is contributing to bridging the information gap which exists among countries in different parts of the world.

The role of the Dag Hammarskjold Library including its depository libraries, may not attract very much attention among the public or among UN permanent missions, but it is playing an important role in facilitating access to information. The Government of Japan highly appreciates such activities of the Library and hopes that it will be strengthened further.

Today's Symposium provides a useful opportunity to review the role of the Dag Hammarskjold Library in supporting the United Nations as it discharges its responsibilities as described in the Charter. I am confident that, with such a distinguished roster of panelists and speakers, it will be an eminently fruitful event.

Thank you.