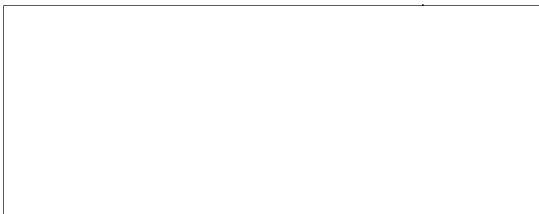


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11 March 1961

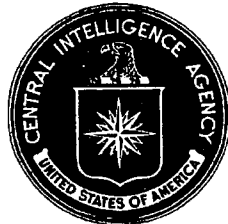


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

11 March 1961

DAILY BRIEF [REDACTED] (b)(3)

Congo: In a 9 March discussion on the Congo with an American official, Hammarskjold expressed the belief that further outbreaks in the Lower Congo were unlikely for the time being. Relations between the UN and local authorities, however, remain uneasy. He indicated that he had not yet found a replacement for Dayal and said that Makki Abbas of Sudan, the interim appointee for the job, was "not the best man in the world but would be all right." Hammarskjold is also hopeful that several additional countries will contribute contingents to the UN force. Another UN official has said that the Somali and Malagasy republics might contribute a battalion each within a month.

The Tananarive conference, by conceding the existence of several de facto centers of power in the Congo, has strengthened Katanga's claim to autonomy and has enhanced Tshombé's position as the leading figure in the anti-Gizenga bloc. [REDACTED] (b)(3)

(Backup, Page 1)

*Laos: In his remarks to Ambassador Thompson on Laos, Khrushchev took a generally positive line, pointing out that the US and the USSR agree that the objective should be neutrality for Laos, that this represents a step forward, and that bilateral conversations should be continued. He said that neither the US nor the USSR stands to gain anything from a continuation of the fighting and that this would only damage relations between the two countries. He warned, however, that any prolonged delay in reaching a solution would complicate the problem and could cause the fighting to flare up. He also [REDACTED] (b)(3)

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~~SECRET~~Situation in the Congo

According to a UN military official in New York, the 1,000-man Moroccan contingent in Katanga seems to have embarked on a systematic program of harassment and non-cooperation with the UN Command. Their morale is said to be completely broken, and they allegedly have "laid down their arms." [Hammarskjold had hoped to send the group to Matadi in a show of force, but the troops reportedly stated that they would obey directives only from Rabat. Rabat has ordered this group--the only remaining part of a force which originally totaled 3,200--to withdraw from the Congo, but it has been delayed by transportation difficulties]

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The Tananarive conference apparently has agreed that the existing central authority should be scrapped, along with the present provincial structure. In their place a group of new states, based largely on tribal lines, would be created, with an ill-defined "community of united nations" arrangement for a central authority, presumably in Leopoldville, which would become a "neutral city." The participants apparently are agreed that any solution reached at the conference will be an interim one and that any definitive reform must wait until the country is pacified. The absence--and presumably the nonconcurrence--of Gizenga will make implementation of these proposals difficult and will probably lead to opposition to them among his international supporters.

Tshombé seems to have been successful in his efforts to reach agreement on replacing the present structure with a loose confederacy. Except for Albert Kalonji of southern Kasai--who is largely dependent on Tshombé's patronage--the other participants have an interest in retaining some type of central authority--Kasavubu and Ileo by virtue of their positions in the present central government, and Leopoldville Provincial President Kamitatu because of his long association with Lumumba's ideals of a unitary state. However, local ties still have considerable importance for most of them, and none seems to be willing to face up to strong pressure.

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from Tshombé. As a result, the conference has been able to issue a vague communiqué recognizing states now existing "by right or in fact."

The only well-defined point on which the participants agree seems to be opposition to the UN. For the most part they are trying to limit their discussions to general principles, leaving contentious details to be worked out in a larger conference tentatively scheduled for the end of March in Elisabethville. Such a conference, which might be attended by as many as 400 leaders of varying political stature, would be likely to become involved in extensive wrangling.

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