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23 August 1960

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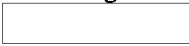
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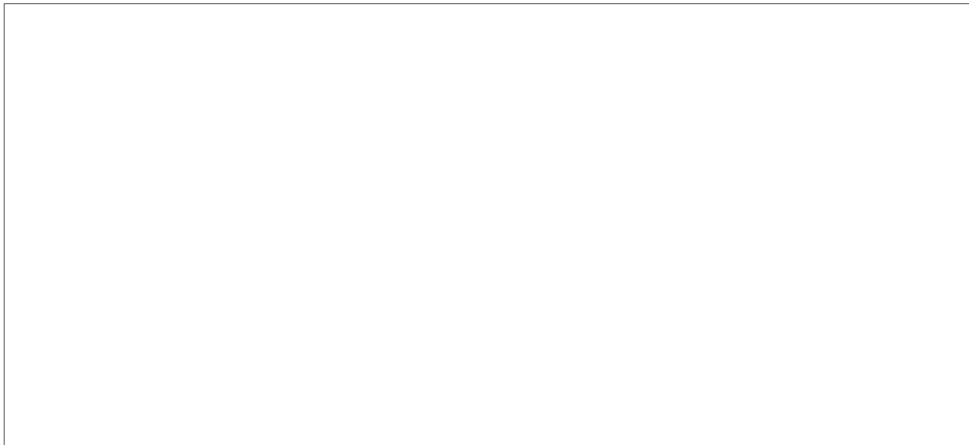
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West Germany: [Following conversations with Chancellor Adenauer and Foreign Minister Brentano, West German Ambassador to Moscow Hans Kroll feels it now is virtually certain that no Bundestag meeting will be held in Berlin before November. In a radio speech on 21 August, West Berlin Mayor Brandt again demanded such a meeting be held despite Soviet threats to sign a separate East German peace treaty. Although Brandt claimed British support for his position, the British Government has recently indicated opposition to the holding of the Bundestag meeting in Berlin in the near future on grounds that this might provoke the USSR.]

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INATION) EMB Moscow 480, 20 Aug 60 (Secret s/s BUO);
 EMB London 821, 17 Aug 60 (Conf s/s); UPT W 0
 5-32 Berlin 21 Aug 60 (Uncl)
 LATE ITEMS

*Congo: Premier Lumumba's modification of certain of his charges against the UN probably stemmed from failure of other African nations to give him full support. Although he will continue to press the UN concerning Katanga, for the time being he may not demand total withdrawal of UN forces from the Congo. The UN Security Council president, in a statement of the majority view on 22 August, upheld Hammarskjold's authority and his interpretations of the council's previous Congo resolutions.

Brussels' reported agreement to withdraw its remaining forces--about 6,000 men--from its Congo bases will partially undercut anti-Belgian propaganda at the conference of African foreign ministers scheduled to begin in Leopoldville on 25 August. The Belgians plan to retain "technicians" at the bases, however, and continue to regard their disposition as a subject for negotiation with the Congo Government.

[Page 5]

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 of P 4

23 Aug 60

DAILY BRIEF

ii

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*Laos: [Premier Souvanna Phouma, Lao Army commander General Ouane, a representative of rebel Captain Kong Le, and the United Nations deputy representative in Laos arrived in Savannakhet on 23 August to attempt to reach a settlement with General Phoumi, leader of the countercoup group. They presumably will stress the danger that rebel paratroop Captain Kong Le, whose troops control the Vientiane area, will join forces with the pro-Communist Pathet Lao dissidents if Phoumi persists in attempting to nullify the coup. The degree of present collusion between Kong Le and the Pathet Lao is unclear, but General Ouane has stated that talks have been held and that the "Pathets would attack Phoumi's forces for us" in any move against Vientiane. There are indications that General Phoumi hopes to set up a rival government at his headquarters in Savannakhet, where nearly a quorum of National Assembly deputies thus far have rallied.]

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23 Aug 60

DAILY BRIEF

iii

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The Situation in the Congo

Premier Lumumba's modification of certain of his charges against the UN probably stemmed from the failure of other African nations to give him full support. Although he will continue to press the UN concerning Katanga, for the time being he may not demand withdrawal of all UN forces from the Congo. The UN Security Council president, in a statement of the majority view on 22 August, upheld Secretary General Hammarskjold's authority and his interpretations of the council's previous Congo resolutions.

Brussels' reported agreement to withdraw its remaining forces--about 6,000 men--from its Congo bases may serve to undercut anti-Belgian propaganda at the conference of African foreign ministers in Leopoldville beginning on 25 August. The Belgians plan to retain "technicians" at the bases, however, and continue to regard their eventual disposition as subject to negotiations with the Congo Government.

The tone of the Leopoldville meeting is also likely to be affected by African doubts concerning Lumumba's attacks on the UN. Ghana's foreign minister stated on 19 August that he expects the initial sessions to be held on the foreign-minister level, with subsequent sessions among heads of state to be held in either Leopoldville or Accra.

The meeting, as first projected by Lumumba and Ghanaian President Nkrumah, was designed in part as a forum to dramatize African support for a united Congo. More recently, however, African backing for Lumumba has become less firm.

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In Elisabethville in Katanga, a conference between provincial President Moise Tshombé and officials of the anti-Lumumba

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Abako party is the first known effort by the two opposition groups to work out a common plan of action. Lumumba continues to suppress opposition in Leopoldville Province; anti-Lumumba moves in the Congo Senate may have prompted the arrest of a legislator from Lumumba's own party, despite his legislative immunity.

The USSR continues its strong support of the Lumumba government. On 20 and 21 August, Moscow protested as "completely inadmissible" Hammarskjold's plan for a civilian UN administration in the Congo, demanded the immediate withdrawal of Canadian forces, and issued its fourth official statement on the Congo crisis, again warning that "peace-loving countries" would have to take "other steps" if Belgian troops are not withdrawn and alleged plans to "dismember" the Congo are not abandoned. ([redacted])

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Sources: AP LEOPOLDVILLE, 22 Aug 60; REUTERS BRUSSELS, 22 Aug 60; NSA 3/O/QOD/T26038, 16 Aug 60 (Top Secret Daunt); EMB ACCRA 259, 19 Aug 60 (Conf).

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Situation in Laos

[Premier Souvanna Phouma, accompanied by Lao army commander General Ouane, a representative of rebel paratroop Captain Kong Le, and the United Nations deputy representative in Laos, flew from Vientiane to Savannakhet on 23 August for negotiations with General Phoumi, leader of the countercoup movement. Presumably, the delegation will stress the danger that rebel paratroop Captain Kong Le, whose troops firmly control the Vientiane area, will join forces with the pro-Communist Pathet Lao dissidents if Phoumi persists in attempting to nullify the 9 August coup and succeeding developments.]

[The high-level composition of this delegation should facilitate the task of reaching a compromise settlement of differences. However, Phoumi may still question the extent of Souvanna's real authority, and may have in mind the creation of a rival government to challenge the Souvanna regime, which he considers illegal. The gravitation of Lao VIPs to Savannakhet continues. Prince Boun Oum Na Champassak, inspector general of the kingdom, arrived on 21 August via Thailand after flight from Vientiane. Leaflets dropped in Vientiane on 22 August requested pro-Phoumi deputies to re-form the National Assembly at Savannakhet. The arrival of three more deputies reported en route from Vientiane would bring the unofficial count of deputies at Savannakhet to 25, or five short of a quorum.]

[The bulk of the 800 battle-hardened troops of Kong Le's 2nd Paratroop Battalion reportedly have set up a defense perimeter several miles outside Vientiane, and Pathet Lao elements apparently are also in blocking position astride road and river approaches to the capital.]

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General

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Ouane told the American army attaché in Vientiane on 22 August that "the Pathet Lao would attack Phoumi's forces for us" if an attack were made on Vientiane.]

[The degree of present collusion between Kong Le and the Pathet Lao is unclear. General Ouane confirms that talks have been held but states that no liaison exists.]

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Estimates of Pathet Lao strength in the Vientiane vicinity vary from several hundred to 2,000; the lower figure is believed more accurate.]

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