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The Situation in the Congo

The initiative in the eastern Congo remains with the Lumumbist forces and their tribal allies, who reportedly are becoming more aggressive as a result of recent successes. Baluba tribesmen have cut the rail link between Elisabethville and Kamina air base and, together with troops from Kivu Province, continue to oppose reinforcement of the UN garrison at Manono.

the UN in the area does not plan to take strong action against the dissidents unless ordered to do so by headquarters in Leopoldville.

the Baluba forces will succeed in setting up an "independent" state in northern Katanga.

Tshombé's government in Elisabethville reportedly now has imported more than 100 Belgian paracommandos. Although Tshombé apparently distrusts his native troops, Belgian officers with the Katanga forces discount the possibility of dissension among Africans in the armed forces. The native civilians in many of the province's important mining cities reportedly present a threat to order; they apparently have some weapons at their disposal.

UN Secretary General Hammarskjold has reiterated his confidence in Rajeshwar Dayal, his representative in Leopoldville, and has rejected Kasavubu's formal demand of 14 January that Dayal be recalled. Hammarskjold took issue with charges made against Dayal by Kasavubu, but said he would refer the matter to the Security Council for final action.

Dayal has been withholding information and slanting reports in such a way as to favor Lumumba supporters. However, Hammarskjold angrily told American officials on 14 January that he was "very determined" to keep Dayal in the Congo, despite a campaign of "Russian-type" innuendo which he implied was coming from Western sources. Nevertheless Hammarskjold may yet have to appoint a new representative if the UN follows

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(b)(3) the precedent of acceding to such requests from recognized chiefs of state in the country where UN troops are serving. (b)(1)(b)(3)

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