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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CONGO

Continuing friction between the UN and the Katanga regime of Moise Tshombé erupted into open fighting in Elisabethville on 13 September. UN forces seized key points in the city, and Premier Adoula in Leopoldville has moved to take over the administration of Katanga under a series of emergency directives.

The showdown between the UN and Tshombé came after UN representative O'Brien had been unsuccessful in pressing Tshombé into negotiations with Adoula aimed at reintegrating "independent" Katanga with the Congo. Initially, the UN appears to have felt that its arrest on 28 August of the Katangan army's white officers would prove sufficient to topple Tshombé's regime. Tshombé remained defiant, however, although in early September he had indicated that he was prepared to hold talks with Adoula if they were held somewhere other than in Leopoldville.

Before he left on 3 September for the Belgrade conference, Adoula reportedly directed army chief Mobutu to prepare plans for the military occupation of northern Katanga by two battalions of Congolese troops. Reports of such contingency planning obviously made a deep impression in Elisabethville, where UN spokesmen had warned Tshombé that the UN would not interfere with, and in fact might aid, military action by Leopoldville to put an end to Katangan independence. In a press conference on 12 September, Tshombé charged the UN with seeking to destroy Katanga and with fomenting "incidents" in order to justify UN military intervention. In a reference to invasion rumors, Tshombé warned that if sufficiently pressed he would destroy Katanga's "economic apparatus"--an apparent reference to the copper mines which are the province's main economic asset.

UN officials denied on 11 and 12 September that they contemplated any further use of force in Katanga. They continued, however, to seek a dissolution of Tshombé's re-

gime and a re-establishment of the central government's authority. There is some evidence that the UN encouraged the migration of anti-Tshombé Baluba tribesmen to the Elisabethville area as a means of neutralizing pro-Tshombé sentiment there.

The American consul quoted two young Balubas as saying that they would not return to their homes until Tshombé was overthrown, regardless of what safe-conduct guarantees they might be offered.

On 11 September O'Brien warned Tshombé to go to Leopoldville "at all costs," failing which "serious consequences" would result. On the following day, O'Brien presented Tshombé with a virtual ultimatum to meet with UN Secretary General Hammarskjöld, who arrived in Leopoldville on 13 September.

The fighting which brought about Tshombé's overthrow began at dawn on 13 September, when UN forces in Elisabethville moved to seize the Katanga radio station, source of anti-UN broadcasts which had occasioned protests by O'Brien. Katangan gendarmerie reportedly fired on the UN soldiers, and the resulting fighting spread to the post office building and the residence of Vice President Kibwe. After three hours of fighting, in which about 40 persons died, O'Brien announced that the UN was in control of the city and that Katanga's secession had ended. Tshombé, who denounced the UN action as "treachery," is believed to have escaped with Interior Minister Munongo. Sporadic firing continued during the night of 13-14 September, and there were reports of fighting in Jadotville, near Elisabethville.

Adoula was quick to follow up on the events in Elisabethville. He announced on 13 September the appointment of Egide Bocheley-Davidson--one-time hatchetman for Gizenga--as "special commissioner" for Katanga. Adoula also stated that new elections would be held for the Katangan assembly.

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Certain Katangan army units may remain loyal to Tshombé and attempt to wage guerrilla warfare from the bush. In the absence of the financial resources which were at his command as Katanga president, however, it is doubtful whether Tshombé could effectively oppose the central government. The Rhodesian Federation has indicated that it will grant him and Munongo asylum, and pro-Katanga sentiment among Europeans in Rhodesia could take the form of support for a Katangan government in exile.

Meanwhile, there are indications that UN and central government representatives have been successful in largely curbing Gizengist activity in Stanleyville. Two of Gizenga's former lieutenants reportedly are in hiding to avoid arrest. UN representative Linner has stated that in view of Gizenga's apparent decision to remain in Leopoldville, the "Stanleyville problem" has been "practically solved." [redacted]

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