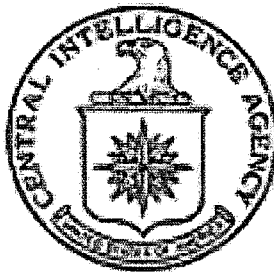


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# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEKLY REVIEW

## CONGO

The atmosphere of bitterness between the UN Command and Congolese army elements may lead to new shooting incidents, and further setbacks for the UN effort in the Congo. Congolese soldiers, who apparently do not want to fight each other, are nevertheless deeply suspicious of UN intentions to disarm them. They react spontaneously to any imagined threat of UN interference, as in the incidents with UN Sudanese and Canadian troops in Matadi.

Secretary General Hammarskjold, following an emergency meeting of the UN's 18-nation advisory committee, reportedly ordered Dayal to "hold" the Congolese ports at all costs, and to "retake" them with force if necessary. However, Foreign Minister Bomboko on 6 March said that Matadi would not be returned to UN control pending a full investigation of the disorders. There has been no further fighting in the area since 5 March, but the Congolese remain suspicious of the UN. The Leopoldville government, playing on this distrust as well as on the scarcity of employment in the area, recently recruited some 12,000 Congolese volunteers by calling for "mobilization" against UN "tutelage."

Hammarskjold is believed planning early action to try to improve the UN's local posi-

tion. The recall of Rajesbwar Dayal from Leopoldville to New York--ostensibly for consultation--probably is a first step by Hammarskjold to ease him out of the Congo picture permanently. Mukhi Abbas of the Sudan has been announced as the UN's acting representative in the Congo.

The attack on the Sudanese UN force led Khartoum to announce that all of its 390 troops in the Congo are to be withdrawn. Its charge that UN officials were "negligent" in their deployment of the force and did not adopt a firm attitude toward "imperialists" is partly a cover for the ineptitude of the local Sudanese commander and a poor performance by his unit. However, Sudanese officials state that their government will continue to refuse to allow UN and bloc aid material to be sent across the Sudan to the Stanleyville regime.

Another African moderate, Tunisia, is concerned that deteriorating conditions in the Congo will leave it isolated from other Africans in its support of the UN. Nevertheless, it has sent an additional 600 men to reinforce its 2,600 troops already in the Congo.

More significantly, India plans to send an additional force of 4,730 men--of whom

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3,000 will be infantry troops. They are scheduled to leave New Delhi on 16 March and will be the largest national contingent in the Congo. Nehru apparently has interpreted Khrushchev's recent letters on the Congo and UN reorganization problems as a deliberate attempt to isolate India from the leading African neutralists and thus counter New Delhi's restraining influence.



The Indian position may have influenced Indonesia, which announced on 7 March that it could send a battalion to the Congo to replace the one being withdrawn, "in view of the latest developments." Djakarta apparently is pinning its continued participation on effective implementation of the latest Security Council resolution.

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Support of a somewhat backhanded kind for the UN was voiced by President Nkrumah of Ghana during his 7 March speech before the General Assembly. He called for a strengthening of the UN under a "primarily" African command. He further modified his earlier proposals, which would have excluded European units in the UN force and would have put Asians in a subordinate role.



Nkrumah told American officials he would be satisfied with either an African or Asian as UN military commander and with some increase in the Afro-Asian membership in the UN staffs. He presented these proposals--which may have originated with General Alexander, the British commander of the Ghanaian armed forces--as a means for stimulating a willingness among uncommitted nations to furnish troops.

The Ileo government on 8 March sent the UN a proposal

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for reorganizing the Congolese Army. Although the government's suggestions are hedged to retain Congolese control, their substance is fairly moderate. They envisage the establishment of a joint UN-Congolese defense council, headed by a "neutral" officer responsible to Kasavubu. The proposals also express the Leopoldville government's willingness to begin with the reorganization of Mobutu's troops, provided firm agreements are made with other regimes for similar steps. There is no indication that these proposals would be accepted by the troops concerned, who are largely unresponsive to civilian authority.

The UN's military problems may be increased, however, if General Mobutu carries out his attack on the Stanleyville regime. Urged on by Leopoldville political leaders, Mobutu reportedly has reluctantly agreed to strike at Aketi, where the Stanleyville forces have gasoline reserves, and possibly at Stanleyville itself. His 4,200 troops in Equateur Province are widely dispersed although relatively well supplied with arms, ammunition, gasoline, and reserves. It is still problematical what if any action they will take.

The success of the reported coup against Gizenga in Stanleyville was unclear as of 1200

hours on 9 March. No information has been received concerning the reaction of the armed forces in Orientale Province, without whose cooperation or acquiescence no change could take place. General Lundula, Gizenga's military commander, reportedly took part in the coup, but he commands little respect among his troops. Friction has long existed between Gizenga's "central government" and local, tribally based authorities, which have tended to be more moderate.

The "legitimate government's" control over Kivu Province may be facing an increasing challenge; on 4 March, Antoine Omari proclaimed the state of Mantsena--in western Kivu--and announced his desire to cooperate with the Leopoldville regime. It is probably an effort to align with the anti-Communist grouping of

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Tshombé, Kalonji, and Ileo announced on 28 February, but it is doubtful that Omari controls enough of Kivu Province to make this move of any real significance.

The conference of Congolese leaders being held at Tannanarive in the Malagasy Republic finally got under way on 8 March despite the absence of Oizenga. Tshombé, who convened the conference, is so far dominating the proceedings and is using the general opposition to the UN in an attempt to weld the participants into a united front. The apparent willingness of Ileo, Kasavubu, and Kalonji to let Tshombé take the lead is enhancing his prestige at their expense. The Katanga leader has proposed increased military cooperation among the various regions in the Congo, but in view of the political rivalries, little of significance is expected to materialize.

President Youlou of the neighboring state comprising former French Congo has called for another conference on the Congo problem to follow the Tannanarive meeting, but a more representative gathering may be the international one under consideration by President Tubman of Liberia. He has invited several prominent West African leaders--Nkrumah of Ghana, Touré of Guinea, Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Keita of Mali, and Balewa of Nigeria--to cosponsor an early meeting of the heads of all African states to prepare

proposals for submission to the resumed UN General Assembly session. Touré, Keita, and Houphouët-Boigny have supported the idea; Nkrumah has replied that the Casablanca conference produced appropriate proposals; Balewa has not yet answered.

In Leopoldville, US and UN officials believe that there is little time remaining before inflation gets completely out of control, with the consequent possibility of disorders among the hitherto relatively quiescent civilian population. The UN Command has failed to provide leadership in the economic field as a result of its preoccupation with political questions. The situation is further complicated by Dayal's ignorance of economic factors and his tactic of withholding budgetary support as a means of pressuring the Leopoldville government.

The benefit of foreign aid furnished so far has been reduced by the lack of coordination as well as inefficiency and venality on the part of Congolese officials. UN financial experts in Leopoldville believe that the establishment of a flexible fund under UN control is the only way to salvage the economic situation. The danger is particularly acute in Leopoldville, where most of the working force is unemployed and vulnerable to inflation in basic commodities.

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