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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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CONGO

Gizenga's reported willingness to attend a meeting of parliament in Leopoldville suggests that major Congolese factions are favorably disposed in principle toward a federation as outlined at the Coquilhatville conference. Negotiations between Elisabethville and Leopoldville concerning the terms under which Katanga would "rejoin" the Congo reportedly began in late May.

Gizenga's decision probably stemmed from misgivings over his isolation from the mainstream of events in the Congo, as well as from doubts regarding long-term prospects for his regime. Although he still claims to represent the legal Congolese government, the refusal of the Kivu provincial assembly to give a vote of confidence to his hand-picked provincial president was a serious setback. In addition, Gizenga continues to have difficulty controlling his troops.

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observed that Gizenga, by attending parliament, probably could sow dissension in the ranks of the moderates, but that it is a moot question whether he could gain power for himself. Gizenga's conciliatory posture, however, may be designed in part to gain time and impress his troops with his dedication to a united Congo.

[REDACTED]

Leopoldville Premier Ileo has advised foreign diplomats that only President Kasavubu is empowered to call parliament into session, and that parliament must meet in Leopoldville. He added that the Leopoldville government planned to obtain, through the UN, foreign specialists to prepare a new constitution based on agreements reached at Coquilhatville on a 20-state federation. Ileo stated that the new constitution would be submitted to the populace for ratification by referendum; he added, however, that the present parliament would continue even after the adoption of a new constitution, since the country was too unsettled for new elections.

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The situation in Kivu Province remains unclear. Opposition to the provisional government of Adrien Omari by local Bashi tribesmen appears to have resulted in clashes with pro-Gizenga troops in which at least 100 Bashis died. Although Gizenga has urged that Omari take a conciliatory position with respect to tribal grievances, several local leaders continue to be detained by Omari.

[REDACTED]