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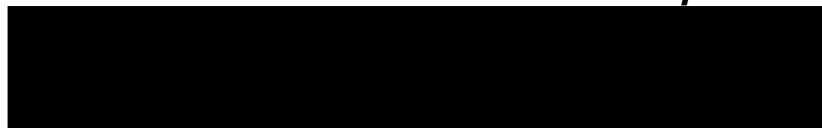
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGO

The Leopoldville negotiations between Adoula and Tshombé were recessed by the central government on 16 April. Adoula departed by riverboat for a "rest" tour of the provinces the following day, and probably will not return to Leopoldville before 24 April. UN representative Gardiner has informed Tshombé that he expects talks to resume no later than that date, and that Tshombé should come forth with concrete proposals at that time.

The central government's pique at Tshombé was dramatized by its action on 18 April in physically blocking his departure from Leopoldville airport. His aircraft finally left for Elisabethville on the morning of 19 April, after UN troops removed fire trucks which had been placed on the runway to prevent his departure. His freedom of movement had earlier been guaranteed by the UN Command.

It is unclear whether Tshombé --who charged Adoula with bad faith in recessing the talks-- will seize upon Adoula's action and upon the airport incident as reasons for breaking off negotiations. Back in Elisabethville, he spoke disparagingly of the central government, stating that the talks had not been broken off, because they had never seriously started. The ill-advised attempt to detain Tshombé reflects the central government's sensitivity to charges that Adoula is incapable of coping with the problem of Katanga's secession.

As of 17 April, Adoula and Tshombé appeared no closer to agreement than when the talks began on 18 March. Tshombé has indicated vaguely that, in return for a high degree of pro-

vincial autonomy, he is prepared to drop Katanga's claim to independence and to contribute to the national treasury. Adoula, in turn, came up with a constitutional formula which, while permitting Tshombé to retain half of Katanga's mining revenues, would centralize authority at Leopoldville to a degree unacceptable to Tshombé. Neither party has shown a disposition for serious bargaining. Gardiner has said that fatigue has made Adoula "irrational and irascible."

Adoula reportedly plans to visit the USSR next month; he tentatively accepted a Soviet invitation in February. However, he reportedly fears that if the Katanga problem is not solved shortly, such a visit would prove an embarrassment. The USSR may use the occasion to offer economic and technical assistance. Although Adoula to date has refused aid other than that channeled through the UN, he might find it difficult to refuse an attractive Soviet offer.

There is increasing evidence that Tshombé's month-long absence from Elisabethville, together with the increasing frequency of incidents involving UN and Katangan troops, has increased tension in southern Katanga. A spokesman for Tshombé's Elisabethville supporters has reportedly urged that Tshombé return at the first opportunity in order to quiet anxiety and reassert his leadership. Word of Tshombé's treatment at the Leopoldville airport may inflame his supporters against the central government. There is no assurance, moreover, that the UN's intervention on Tshombé's behalf will materially alleviate the deep-seated hostility between his supporters and the UN Command.

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