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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

Congolese Premier Adoula's political position remains extremely shaky in the wake of opposition attacks on him in the Chamber of Deputies on 28 November. He appears tired, uncertain, and acutely depressed, and has several times threatened to resign. He has complained to Ambassador Gullion that the cabinet and Parliament were becoming unmanageable, and that new US and UN pressures on Katanga's Tshombé were probably too late. It seems doubtful that Adoula can stay in office long without extensive concessions to the opposition.

One of the concessions Adoula seems ready to make, despite adverse Western reaction, is to release Antoine Gizenga, Patrice Lumumba's leftist "heir," who attempted to establish his own regime in Stanleyville with radical African and Soviet bloc support. A government commission visited Gizenga in his island prison on 1 December and reportedly will recommend his release.

Concessions already made and the prospect of more such concessions have generated strong criticism and apprehension among Adoula's closest advisers. Albert Ndele, governor of the Congo bank and a member of Adoula's inner circle, has hinted that more determined members of the government should take over and place Parliament in recess.

Rather than try to pass a no-confidence motion in the Sen-

ate--following last month's unsuccessful effort at such a vote in the lower house--the opposition now reportedly favors attacking Adoula's legislative program and proposing motions of censure against individual cabinet ministers. The premier's opponents appear to have the votes to block his program--or to wring substantial concessions from him. Efforts to force him to oust individual ministers will probably be more successful than their attack on the government as a whole.

To try to bolster Adoula and to exert pressure on Tshombé, the UN military command has begun a build-up of its forces in Elisabethville. Secretary General Thant's military adviser, General Rikhye, is in the Congo to survey the situation. Initially, the build-up is aimed at putting psychological pressure on Tshombé; there are no indications that Thant has as yet approved any UN military initiative.

At the same time, UN officials in New York reiterate that there must be progress on Tshombé's part soon, and they believe that there are a number of measures they can take within their present UN mandates.

The movements of UN forces, publicized threats by the UN of impending economic sanctions, the current US-Belgian consultations on the Congo, and rumors that the Belgian mining companies were about to stop their payments to Tshombé in favor

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of Leopoldville have raised apprehensions in the Katangan regime and among the local Belgian population. About 200 Belgians participated in a carefully staged protest demonstration in Elisabethville on 4 December.

Tshombé [REDACTED] that if economic sanctions were imposed "every bridge, every road, every plant" in Katanga "will go into the air." Two days later Tshombé repeated that "everything will be destroyed, everything."

The possibility that Tshombé would retaliate against Belgian mining installations in Katanga has in the past served as the basis for Union Miniere's refusal to halt its payments to Tshombé. [REDACTED]

Company executives in Brussels told Adoula in early November that it could not make its payments to the central government without Tshombé's approval; that Katangan authorities exercised effective control in the areas where their plants and mines were located; and that it was not the role of a private company to make the central government's position prevail. There is no sign that Union Miniere's attitude has changed since then.

[REDACTED] Soviet officials have again offered military assistance to end the Katanga secession. While Soviet propaganda has sought to discredit the UN and the pro-Western Adoula government, it is doubtful that Soviet military assistance to the Congolese army would materialize unless there were a radical change in Congolese politics and in the hostility of other African states toward outside involvement in Africa's internal affairs. [REDACTED]

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