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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE)

TDCSDB 315/01019-64

DATE OF INFO. EARLY AUGUST-EARLY OCTOBER 1964

DISTR. 14 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

EVENTS CONCERNING CONGO REBELS' TREATMENT
OF AMERICAN CONSULAR PERSONNEL SINCE THE
FALL OF STANLEYVILLE

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

[Redacted]

REF

IN 92421

SOURCE
AND
APPRAISAL:

[Redacted]

FIELD REPORT NO.

1. THE CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN

[Redacted]

SECRET

LEADERS CHRISTOPHE GBENYE AND GASTON SOUMIALOT,

[Redacted]

HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT

ON THE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CONSULAR PERSONNEL WHO HAD BEEN TREATED

WHEN STANLEYVILLE FELL. THE AMERICANS ARE NOW PERMITTED ONE ROOM

APIECE AT THE SABENA GUEST HOUSE, IN EXCHANGE FOR TURNING CONSUL

GENERAL HOYT'S RESIDENCE OVER TO SOUMIALOT. [Redacted]

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~~SECRET~~

[Redacted]

SECRET

STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC ZIAI ASSTAS OCT ONE OOR ASSTACONS

PRIORITY TO CINCPACAFSA AND STATE (RCI)

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2.

[REDACTED] THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN VERY BADLY TREATED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM, WITH CLOTHS, WHICH LOOKED LIKE PIECES OF THE AMERICAN FLAG, STUCK IN THEIR MOUTHS. [REDACTED] THE AMERICANS' FACES AND HEADS WERE SWOLLEN).

3. THE AMERICAN CONSULAR PERSONNEL BEGAN TO RECEIVE SEVERE TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RETAKING OF BUKAVU ON 20-21 AUGUST BY THE CONGO NATIONAL ARMY (ANC). THE REBELS' POPULAR ARMY IN STANLEYVILLE HAD BEEN MOMENTARILY EXPECTING THE ARRIVAL IN STANLEYVILLE OF TWO CAPTURED AMERICAN COLONELS, AND WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT THE AMERICAN COLONELS HAD ESCAPED, THIS INCREASED THE REBELS' STATE OF EXCITEMENT. THE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS WERE PLACED IN THE STANLEYVILLE CENTRAL PRISON ACROSS FROM THE BOUCHERIE DEMAIGRE. THEY WERE FORCED TO STAY THERE WITHOUT MATTRESSES AND FORCED TO EAT WITH THEIR HANDS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MOVED SOME TIME LATER FROM THE PRISON TO THE SABENA

~~SECRET~~

GUEST HOUSE. BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICER NOTHOMB MADE MANY APPEALS ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICANS, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

4. WHEN GBENYE ARRIVED IN STANLEYVILLE ON 4 SEPTEMBER, HE ORDERED NOTHOMB TO BRING CONSUL GENERAL HOYP FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM (GBENYE). THE GUARDS AROUND THE AMERICANS AT THE GUEST HOUSE, HOWEVER, OBJECTED TO THIS, AND ON THE INTERVENTION OF EITHER REBEL "GENERAL" NICOLAN OLENGA, OR REBEL "COLONEL" OTEPE, THE AMERICANS WERE AGAIN SENT TO PRISON. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT APPEARS THAT THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE TAKEN BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE CENTRAL PRISON AND THE GUEST HOUSE, AND ALSO WERE ON OCCASION TAKEN TO CAMP KETELE).

5. [REDACTED] ASKED GBENYE WHAT RIGHT THE REBELS HAD TO KEEP THE AMERICANS AND OTHER WHITES AS HOSTAGES. GBENYE FINALLY ANSWERED THAT HE WAS AFRAID THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL THE SITUATION. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE REBEL TROOPS' REACTION WOULD BE IF HE (GBENYE) RELEASED THE AMERICANS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GBENYE [REDACTED] COULD BE JUDGED AS A CRIMINAL AGAINST THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY, AND [REDACTED] SOONER OR LATER, EVEN IN TWENTY YEARS, AS IN THE CASE OF EICHMANN, HE (GBENYE) COULD BE CAUGHT. GBENYE APPEARED MORE MODERATE THAN SOUMIALOT, BUT BOTH REFUSED TO SIGN A DOCUMENT STATING THAT THEY WOULD RESPECT INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND THEY REFUSED TO RELEASE THE AMERICANS OR THE SICK [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SOMETIME AFTER
THE DEPARTURE, [REDACTED] THE ITALIANS
ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD SEEK TO EVACUATE THEIR PERSONNEL FROM
STANLEYVILLE, AND THE ITALIANS SENT AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO
BUJUMBURA. WHEN HE LEARNED ABOUT THIS, SOUMIALOT ASKED THE ^{AM} READER
REPRESENTATIVE IN STANLEYVILLE FOR/INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENT ON HUMAN
RIGHTS. THIS DOCUMENT WAS EVENTUALLY FURNISHED BY KOKHOMB. (FIELD
COMMENT: THIS IS APPARENTLY THE GENEVA CONVENTION). AFTER TWO
DAYS STUDY OF THE DOCUMENT, SOUMIALOT ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD DECIDED
TO EVACUATE THE SICK AT STANLEYVILLE, BUT NOT THE AMERICANS, ON
CONDITION THAT THE IRC BRING BACK 200 CONGOLESE WOMEN FROM BRASSA-
VILLE. [REDACTED] THIS IS PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO WIVES OF
REBEL LEADERS AND PERSONNEL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT WAS AT ABOUT THIS TIME THAT SOUMIALOT MADE
THE CONCESSION OF GIVING THE AMERICANS ONE ROOM EACH.

6. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW DRUMS ON THE STANLEYVILLE AIRPORT
RUNWAY, AND NO ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AT THE AIRPORT. [REDACTED]
THERE APPEAR TO BE VERY FEW REBEL TROOPS NOW STATIONED IN STANLEY-
VILLE. THE REBELS APPEAR TO BE VERY MUCH AFRAID OF AIRPLANES)

7. FIELD DISSEM: NONE INDICATED.

END OF MESSAGE

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