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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 IO-10 FEA-01 SAM-01

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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CG
SUBJECT: MOBUTU EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN LE SOIR

SUMMARY: MASS CIRCULATION, INDEPENDENT DAILY, LE SOIR, CARRIED EXCLUSIVE REPORT OF TWO INTERVIEW OF ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ZAIRE, ETIENNE UGEUX WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN JULY 15 EDITION. MOBUTU COMMENTED ON COUP PLOT, BELGO-ZAIROIS RELATIONS, UK-UGANDAN RELATIONS, CABINDA AND AID FROM ARAB STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. COUP PLOT. MOBUTU SAID REASON FOR COUP PLOT WAS CLEAR-FOREIGN CONTROL OF CHIEF PLOTTERS AND THE NEED TO ELIMINATE HIM PHYSICALLY. WITHOUT REMOVING MOBUTU PHYSICALLY A COUP WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN ZAIRE ACCORDING TO THE PLOTTERS. FOR SIX MONTHS, PLOTTERS FOLLOWED MUBUTU'S MOVEMENTS BOTH IN ZAIRE AND ABROAD. DATE FOR HIS ASSASSINATION WAS SET FOR JUNE 15, BUT BY MIRACLE AN AJUTANT BECAME A TURNCOAT TO THE PLOTTERS AND INFORMED MOBUTU. FIRST CONCLUSIONS ARE SIMPLE. EX-MINISTER LUANGO, NOW UNDER ARREST WAS TO PREPARE A COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR ORDER IN ZAIRE AND THE RETURN TO ZAIRE AND TO THEIR PROPERTIES

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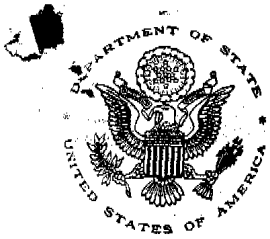
OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPOSSESSED THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING. SEPTEMBER 30 WAS ORIGINAL DATE FOR COUP, BUT DATE WAS MOVED UP TO JUNE 15 AFTER A SUB-LIEUTENANT WAS SENT TO FRANCE IN MAY TO CONSULT A SEER. SEER SAID THAT SEPTEMBER WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT MOBUTU'S ELIMINATION COULD NOT BE POSTPONED BEYOND JUNE 30. INVESTIGATION OF COUP PLOT IS ALMOST FINISHED AND YOU CAN COUNT ON THE PLOTTERS BEING TRIED.

2. BELGO-ZAIROIS RELATIONS. MOBUTU CONFIRMED HIS OFFICIAL INVITATION TO BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TO VISIT ZAIRE, AND SAID IT WOULD BE CONFIRMED IN WRITING. INVITATION WOULD BE CONCRETE SIGN OF THE INCREASINGLY SERENE RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND BELGIUM. SOME SAY THAT ZAIRE NEEDS BELGIUM BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THAT IS SHORT-TERM THINKING WHICH IS A MONUMENTAL ERROR, THOUGH DUE TO THE DROP IN THE PRICE OF COPPER FROM DOLS 3,000 PER TON TO DOLS 1,000 ZAIRE DOES HAVE CERTAIN PROBLEMS IN MEETING ITS FOREIGN DEBTS. ZAIRE DOES NOT EXPECT GIFTS FROM BELGIUM, BUT BELIEVES THAT BELGIUM HAS A MORAL DEBT TO ZAIRE FOR HAVING COLONIZED IT. THUS, ZAIRE TURNS TO BELGIUM FIRST FOR EXPERTS AND THE MATERIAL ZAIRE NEEDS IN ORDER TO KEEP GOING. WHEN BELGIUM CANNOT HELP, ZAIRE TURNS TO OTHERS WHO DID NOT REAP THE BENEFITS OF HAVING BEEN ZAIRE'S COLONIZER. THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF CHANGING MASTERS.

3. UK-UGANDAN RELATIONS. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO HIS FRIEND AMIN CONCERNING HILLS, PROVING HE WAS A GREAT HUMANIST. WITHOUT WISHING TO MEDDLE IN THE UGANDA'S AFFAIRS MOBUTU, IN RESPONSE TO AMIN'S REQUEST, HAD UNDERTAKEN TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE UK AND UGANDA ONLY IN ORDER TO SAVE HILLS. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF UK-UGANDA RELATIONS, BUT NOW HE HAD THE FULL DOSSIER ON HIS DESK, WHICH DESPITE CALLAGHAN'S EARLY SKEPTICISM, HAS PRODUCED RESULTS.

4. CABINDA. FOR BOTH ZAIRE AND PORTUGAL THE TREATMENT OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA MUST BE EVENHANDED. ZAIRE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF CABINDA BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANGOLA. COLONIZATION OF CABINDA BEGAN WITH THE 1885 BERLIN TREATY. ANGOLA WAS COLONIZED 500 YEARS AGO, CABINDA WAS ATTACHED TO ANGOLA ADMINISTRATIVELY ONLY IN 1956. MOBUTU DREW A PARALLEL

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TO BELGIUM'S ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT OF RUANDA AND URUNDI TO THE BELGIAN CONGO AND THE AMICABLE SEPARATE WAYS THESE THREE COUNTRIES TOOK IN 1960 AND 1962 UPON ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE. ZAIRE AND CONGO (B) ARE IN AGREEMENT ON CABINDA. ZAIRE BELIEVES CABINDA MIGHT EITHER JOIN ANGOLA OR BECOME INDEPENDENT AND THAT THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY A UN/OAU SPONSORED REFERENDUM. ZAIRE HAS NO HIDDEN PURPOSE IN THIS MATTER.

5. AID FROM OIL-PRODUCING ARAB STATES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON WHETHER ZAIRE HAD NOT BEEN DECEIVED BY LIMITED ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM RICH ARAB STATES, MOBUTU ADMITTED SOME DECEPTION BUT COMMENTED "WE ARE NOT RUG MARCHANTS." ZAIRE WILL FOLLOW ITS CONSCIENCE. ZAIRE DID NOT BECOME PRO-ARAB BECAUSE OF THEIR RICHES.
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