

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

4 August 1960

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Belgium, in agreeing to withdraw its forces in Katanga Province to one base there, appears to be moving slowly toward a total military evacuation of the Congo. Brussels' criticism of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold's announcement that UN troops will enter Katanga on 6 August and its characterization of the Katanga question as an "internal" matter subject to discussion among the Congolese appear designed to support Katanga Premier Tshombé without committing Belgium to his defense.

Tshombé, in his conversations with UN Under Secretary Dr. Bunche, may seek UN support for a compromise in which Katanga would rejoin the Congo in return for a reorganization of the Congo into a federation of semi-autonomous provinces. The UN will almost certainly attempt to avoid becoming further involved as mediator of an internal Congo dispute, however, and will probably seek merely to dissuade Tshombé from forcibly opposing the entry of UN troops. Tshombé's angry opposition to the UN occupation may force a delay in the entry; he probably has no more than 500 trained non-Belgian troops at his disposal, however, and would be unable to offer effective resistance to the UN forces, which now number over 11,000 men.

Brussels appears determined to retain its two Congo bases--Kamina in Katanga and Kitona in Leopoldville Province--until such time as it can negotiate terms for a complete withdrawal with

the Lumumba government. Belgian officials have declared that UN entry does not entail the immediate evacuation of Belgian troops from Kamina. In Brussels, the Congo crisis has led to discussions among government leaders of a possible cabinet reshuffle. Social Christian and Liberal coalition partners, although agreeing to share responsibility for the Congo debacle, have urged the replacement of Congo Ministers de Schrijver and Scheyven.

Meanwhile, the major effort being made by Ghana's Nkrumah and Guinea's Sekou Touré to influence Premier Lumumba and other members of the Congolese Government may presage an early announcement of some form of association among the three states.

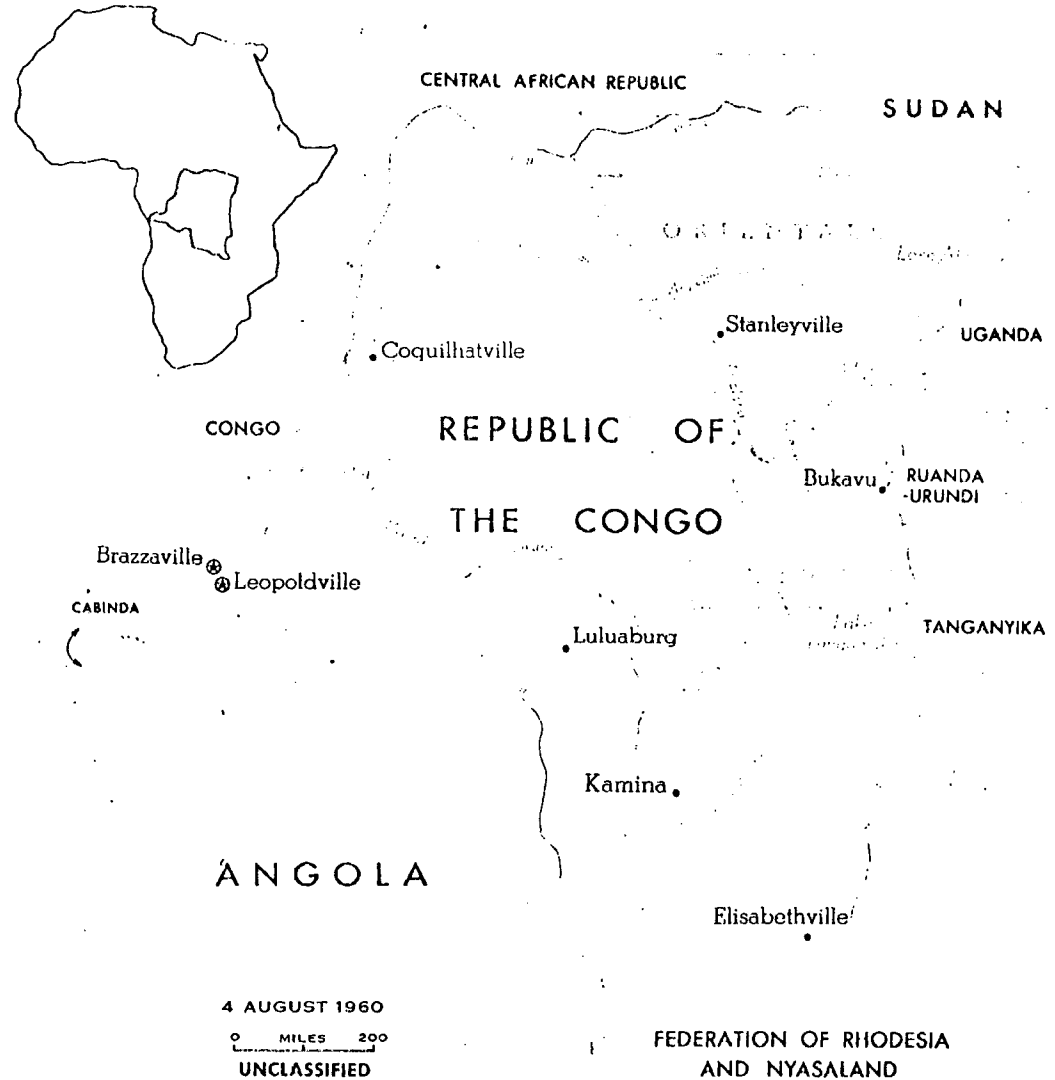
Guinean political representatives, brought into Leopoldville under military cover, have been observed along with Soviet representatives denouncing the UN to Congolese officials. The Guineans--who appear to be working closely with the Russians in Leopoldville--reportedly also have urged the Lumumba regime to take strong measures against domestic opponents and against Belgians. At least some Congolese officials are concerned about Guinean activities in the Congo, as evidenced by Foreign Minister Bomboko's suggestion to an American Embassy officer on 2 August that efforts be made to bring in advisers from the Federation of Mali as a counterweight to the Guineans.

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Lumumba's departure from New York on 2 August apparently frustrated Soviet plans to request a Security Council meeting on the issue of Belgian withdrawal from Katanga. The TASS chief at the UN told correspondents on 1 August that the USSR would ask for a meeting while Lumumba was in New York, and a Soviet

UN delegate, after conferring with the Congolese premier, met with the UN Secretariat regarding the need for a Security Council session. TASS announced on 2 August that 20 Soviet medical workers, including experienced doctors and surgeons, would leave for the Congo in a few days--presumably the medical aid promised on 31 July.

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Moscow has stepped up its efforts to discredit the UN role in the Congo, and Soviet officials in Leopoldville and in the UN are actively encouraging Congolese authorities in their demands for total Belgian withdrawal. Soviet moves appear aimed at stimulating hostility among the Congolese toward UN efforts and at dividing the Afro-Asian states from Western members of the organization.

Moscow propaganda has been especially critical of Hammarskjold, charging that he is supporting the NATO colonial powers by his "more than conciliatory position" and aggravating the situation with his "demagoguery." Dr. Bunche has been accused of "directly participating" in Belgian attempts to bring about an economic crisis in the Congo in order to discredit the Lumumba government, and UN troops have been charged with acting as a shield to cover Western military aggression.

Moscow continues to stress the USSR's support for the Congolese Government and its readiness to "take resolute measures to rebuff the aggressors"--reiterated in a Soviet statement of 31 July--but there is no indication in recent statements that dispatch of Soviet forces is contemplated. Citing the NATO countries as a group, the Soviet statement also accused the "aggressors and their ac-

complices" of trying to strangle the Congolese Republic economically and smother its independence by armed force. A TASS report of Lumumba's 28 July Washington press conference noted his remarks concerning a possible appeal for US military aid, and referred to "provocative" questions from US reporters regarding a request for Soviet help--apparently to play down the subject of unilateral intervention by the USSR.

Moscow announced on 1 August the appointment of M. K. Yakolev, former foreign minister of the Russian Republic (RSFSR), as ambassador to the Congo. A. Fomin, who arrived in Leopoldville with a small party of officials on 21 July aboard a Soviet food plane, has been named chargé d'affaires.

UN Technical Assistance

Hammarskjold is formulating plans for UN technical assistance to the Congo. Implementation depends on the UN's success in securing its recognition as the controlling channel for assistance from various governments and private groups and in persuading the Lumumba government to make its requests for aid to the UN. Hammarskjold is reliably said to be firmly opposed to "freewheeling" on the part of any group, including the UN specialized agencies. (SECRET NOFORN)

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