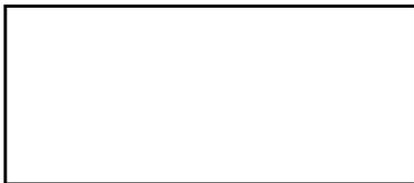


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4 January 1962



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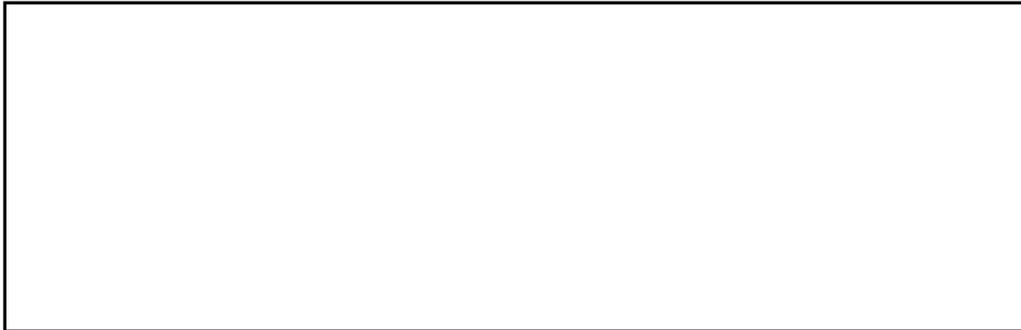
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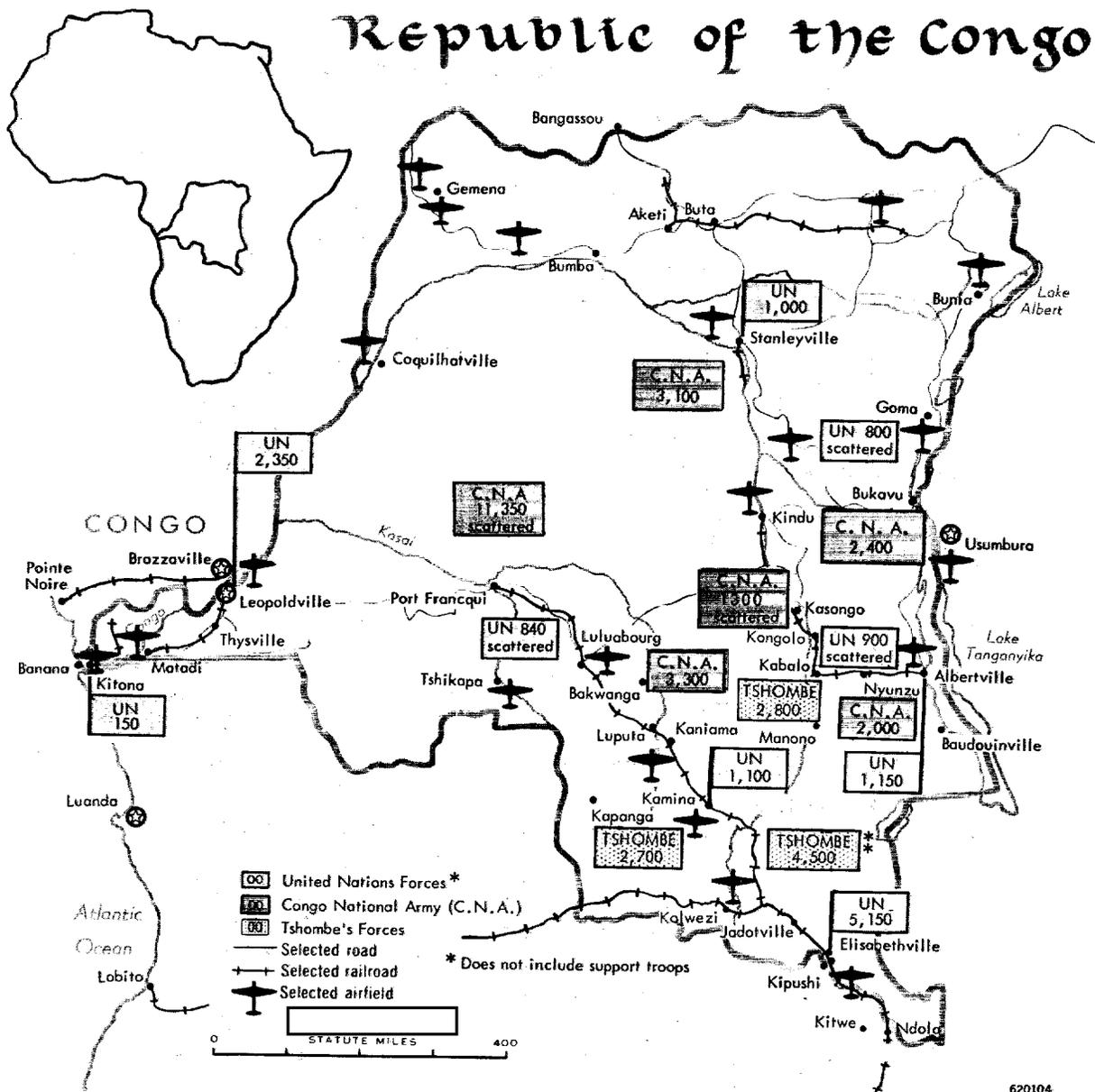


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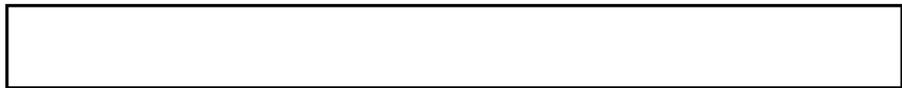
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Republic of the Congo



* The numerical strength of Tshombe's forces in the Elisabethville area has been reduced in the recent fighting, but there are no reliable figures on the number of casualties.



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DAILY BRIEF

Congo: For the time being, relations between UN and Katangan authorities in Elisabethville have improved, and on 2 January joint police patrols were resumed. This suggests that UN contingency plans for an attack on Tshombé's forces outside the city are not likely to be implemented in the immediate future. The status of the projected session of the Katangan parliament--called by Tshombé to "ratify" the Kitona accords--remains in doubt. Only 19 deputies showed up at a brief session on 3 January. In conversation with a US official on 2 January, Tshombé conceded that only four of about 25 opposition deputies had been invited. [redacted]

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Lebanon: The abortive coup by the rightist Social National party (SNP) has weakened the position of other pro-Western elements in Lebanon and has prompted a wave of anti-Western propaganda from Arab capitals and Moscow. According to Cairo radio, Lebanese Interior Minister Kamal Jumblatt has said that he is certain that "more than one foreign state" instigated the conspiracy. The Egyptian press and radio have taken the lead in charging Britain with complicity and allege that the pro-Western former President of Lebanon, Camille Shamun, was the "chief brain." Since Arab nationalists have often claimed that the anti-Nasir SNP is pro-American, they probably will also accuse the United States of collusion. Moscow radio already has made such a claim.

The Lebanese cabinet has adopted legal measures for controlling the entry and residence of foreigners, including refugees. The more than 2,000 SNP members who have been arrested reportedly include Syrians, Jordanians, and Palestine refugees. The SNP advocates the merger of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine into a "greater Syria" and maintains outlawed branches in most of those countries.

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DAILY BRIEF

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

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On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Berlin: Further Communist harassments are to be expected. However, present Communist military activity does not suggest that the Communists expect to risk serious military confrontations in the immediate future.

Laos: The breakdown of the three princes' talks has raised the possibility of increased military action by either side, but there are no clear indications that the Communists intend major military operations in the immediate future. However, limited-scale attacks can be initiated by either side with no warning.

South Vietnam: Viet Cong subversive and small-scale military activity continues at a high rate, despite counteractions in various regions by government forces. The Viet Cong has the capability of conducting large-scale attacks on pre-selected targets in some areas of the country at any time.

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The Situation in the Congo

The projected meeting of the Katangan parliament may be forced to adjourn for lack of a quorum. Such a result would allow Tshombé to maintain that the Kitona protocol had not been properly ratified and was therefore not legally binding. The US Consulate has characterized Katangan officials as "very close-mouthed" on the subject of the projected session.

There are unconfirmed reports that Tshombé's 1,800-man Kongolo garrison, whose withdrawal was announced on 1 January, is intact and moving in the direction of Nyunzu. Tshombé may hope to employ it to bolster Katangan forces west of Baudouinville, which in recent weeks have been under pressure by Stanleyville-directed Congo Army forces.

Acting Secretary General Thant has requested Portugal to permit the stationing of UN observers "at a few selected airports and roads" in Angola to ensure that personnel and equipment destined for Katanga are not entering through Angola. Thant emphasized that the request implied no indictment of Portuguese authorities, and stated that the UN was also exploring the possibility of stationing observers in Rhodesia.

Press reports from Khartoum indicate that a Soviet aircraft transporting relief supplies to the Congo has been impounded pending receipt of clearance by the UN for continuation of its flight to Leopoldville. Failure of UN authorities to permit the flight would represent a setback to Soviet efforts to circumvent the UN in providing flood relief to the Congo. The US Embassy in Leopoldville reports, however, that Adoula has backed away from his earlier insistence that the Soviets place their supplies directly in the hands of the UN, and adds that a compromise arrangement calls for the Soviet Red Cross to turn its goods over to World Health Organization officials, who in the Congo are under direct UN supervision.

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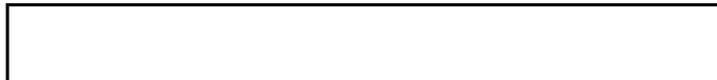
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