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13 October 1960

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The power struggle in Leopoldville remains stalemated, but army chief Joseph Mobutu is determined to arrest Lumumba. His efforts have led to a very tense situation, and any implementation of his threats to use force would bring him into open conflict with the UN Command. On 12 October he reportedly had about 1,000 Congolese troops in the vicinity of Lumumba's residence.

His first effort to send a Congolese Army unit to arrest the former premier was frustrated by the UN guard--largely Ghanaian--at his official residence. Mobutu then demanded that the UN yield Lumumba, but was turned down on 11 October. A government spokesman then threatened a "nation wide uprising" if Lumumba were not surrendered. However, UN representative Dayal has stated

that Lumumba can be surrendered only if parliament withdraws his parliamentary immunity. Mobutu then charged the UN official with a "false interpretation" of Congolese law, and Dayal countered that the move to arrest Lumumba was a "trick" and not a proper solution to the Congo's problem.

Mobutu is likely to move slowly on any appeal to the populace because of Lumumba's demonstrated spellbinding capability. If Mobutu is dissuaded from using force, however, he may be prompted to reconvene parliament, whose members have lately been critical of Lumumba, in order to deprive the former premier of his legislative immunity.

Active support for Lumumba from Ghana, Guinea, and the UAR has counterbalanced to some extent the fall in Lumumba's

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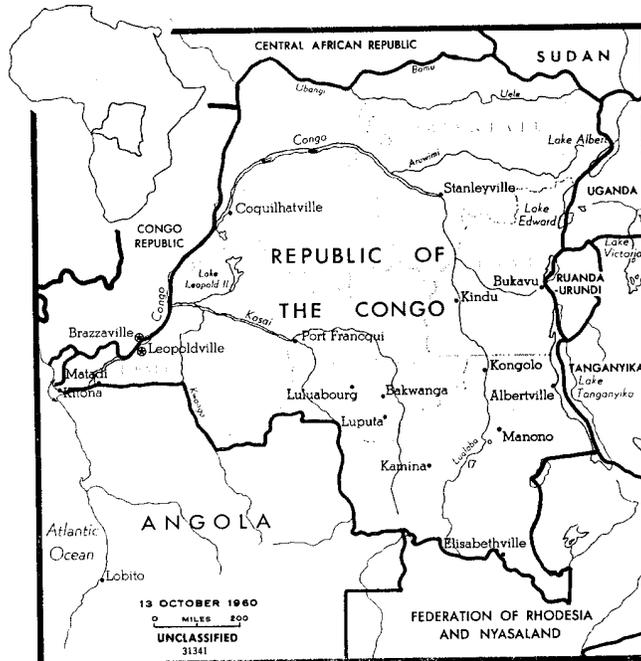
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domestic prestige. On 11 October, after Mobutu had set the first of several deadlines for the UN to surrender Lumumba, a Ghanaian-operated IL-18 turboprop aircraft loaded with about 60 Ghanaian troops took off from Accra, reportedly for the purpose of rescuing Lumumba from "house arrest" in Leopoldville and setting him up as head of a government-in-exile based in Accra. The plane turned back, allegedly because of bad weather, and the flight may have been for a routine troop rotation; a similar flight left Accra on 12 October.

While press attention is centered on the political situation in Leopoldville, the Congo's economic difficulties threaten to become overwhelming. The financial consultant for the Congo, who is working under UN auspices has stated that a crisis will occur this week unless a coordinated salvage program is undertaken immediately. The government reportedly will be unable to meet its military and civilian payrolls on 15 October, which on the basis of past experience would lead to renewed disorder and chaos.

Recently, the director of the Congo Central Bank in Brus-

sels stated that the Congolese Government had requested its last line of credit and after that was exhausted--around 15



October--the Congo would have no further funds. He noted, however, that it might be possible to permit further borrowing by raising the present debt ceiling.

At a recent meeting with Justin Bomboko, head of the technical commission forming the Congo's administration, the Congolese leader agreed that the government must act swiftly and without regard to constitutional limitations requiring parliamentary approval of

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international banking agreements. Bomboko on 11 October established a monetary council and promised to enter financial negotiations with Belgium to arrange the distribution of the assets of former semipublic Belgian corporations in the Congo.

Meanwhile, the situation in Katanga Province is also serious. Anti-Tshombé Baluba tribesmen appear to control large areas of northern and central Katanga and to have made numerous depredations against Europeans. Many officials in Elisabethville reportedly fear that this tribal guerrilla conflict with the

Katanga government now is entering a critical phase which could become a full-scale civil war. The widened scope of rebel activities suggests that some form of Baluba political organization is taking shape. President Tshombé has strongly criticized the UN Command for failing to give his troops a free hand in putting down the disorders.

Tshombé also seems to be under pressure from anti-Belgian elements within his Conakat party, and apparently as a result has lately attacked Brussels for failing to grant Katanga diplomatic recognition.

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