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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

CONGO

Western European nations have been lukewarm toward the UN-US plan to promote Congo unification by resorting to economic boycott and sanctions against Katanga if President Tshombé's regime continues its secessionist stand. Brussels has indicated that it agrees with the plan's objectives, but Foreign Minister Spaak has demanded adequate UN protection for the Union Minière's Katanga properties before cooperating in economic sanctions. His government is under fire from the Belgian press for its reported participation in the plan.

London has accepted the "Proposal for National Reconciliation," but has so many reservations about the accompanying "Course of Action" that it has refused even to join in presenting the latter document to Adoula. Britain remains opposed to any actions which imply the use of force. London has stated, however, that if economic sanctions were applied against Katanga by other countries, it would not oppose them and would probably limit imports of Katangan copper to the average of the last three years in order to "preserve the stability of the London metal market." Paris similarly is not prepared to participate in the plan, but will not oppose it and appears willing to limit copper imports to present levels. Press reports of the European reservations, as well as Adoula's attempt to apply such sanctions as the closing of Elisabethville airport and the suspension of Katanga's telecommunications with foreign countries, have lessened the chances of Tshombé's acceptance.

Belgium has urged Adoula to suspend application of these sanctions, which actually are having little effect on Katanga. Sabena is flying to Ndola, within easy reach of Elisabethville,

and the Belgian telecommunications agency is still handling Elisabethville traffic. Adoula has told [REDACTED] that he would have preferred acting in line with a Western program for reintegrating Katanga, but felt that he had to move quickly to bolster his political position.

Official Katangan reaction to the Adoula decrees has been relatively mild. Tshombé's government continues to stress its readiness to discuss "reasonable solutions" despite the central government's latest pressure tactics. At the same time, however, it has introduced a new diversionary proposal for the establishment of a "tripartite" commission of experts designated by Leopoldville, Elisabethville and the UN to develop a federal constitution. This proposal ignored Adoula's recent request for UN assistance in drafting such a new constitution.

There are increasing indications that the central government may soon attempt to force Tshombé's troops to withdraw from Kongolo, a strategic transport center in northern Katanga, where they are isolated. Within the past few weeks Congolese army units in northern Katanga were reinforced with a battalion flown in from Stanleyville, and Air Congo made frequent flights carrying equipment from the Leopoldville supply area to Albertville. Leopoldville Vice Premier Sendwe has informed [REDACTED] that he is going to Albertville on 18 August "to put an end to the Kongolo problem." He said he did not wish to "make war," but is determined to resolve the problem and restore transport and communications lines linking northern Katanga with the rest of the Congo. Sporadic and inconclusive fighting has apparently broken out in some other areas of northern Katanga.