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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CONGO

Tshombé's strategy, as it appears to be evolving in his talks with Adoula, is to offer the prospect of Katangan economic concessions and to expect in return constitutional changes to permit a high degree of autonomy for the provincial government. In over six days of talks--resumed on 27 March

after a three-day suspension--the two leaders have not yet begun to discuss practical measures--financial, economic, or military--for Katanga's reintegration into the Congo. Considerable time has been spent wrangling over Tshombé's assertion that while he has a free hand to negotiate, any

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agreement must be ratified by the Katangan Assembly.

Tshombé, by insisting on assembly ratification, has raised the issue of the validity of the Loi Fondamentale, the Belgian-drafted constitution which established the primacy of Leopoldville over the Congo's provinces. He wants to drastically amend, if not totally dispen- sence with, this law. Adoula, on the other hand, who wants to retain it, maintains that the law requires no provincial ratification of agreements between a province and the central government. Adoula insists that he cannot suspend the Loi Fondamentale, since it affects all the provinces and revision is up to parliament.

[REDACTED] Tshombé himself reportedly told [REDACTED] he would not hold out on the ratification issue, although he clearly intends to continue to press for constitutional concessions.

Tshombé listed four items in the agenda he proposed for the resumed talks: the first three involve discussion of new constitutional arrangements; the fourth is "an examination of accords to be reached on financial, economic, and fiscal matters."

[REDACTED] Tshombé will make "generous" economic concessions in return for political concessions.

[REDACTED] Tshombé wired Katangan officials on 24 March--during the suspension of the talks--that he was satisfied with the "progress" being made. He also informed UN civil chief Gardiner that he expected the talks to go on for some time. Adoula, on the other hand, appears to be growing more exasperated with the

Katangan leader and doubtful that he can budge him. On 24 March, Adoula laid the blame for Tshombé's intransigence on the US and the UN, which he charged have in effect been aiding Tshombé. He asserted that the UN had not carried out its mandate and that the US had blocked the establishment of a Congolese air force.

Adoula said Tshombé was acting as if he were the head of an independent state rather than a provincial president. The prime minister said that he himself might be censured by parliament for his failure to show some progress, and he might have to try to forestall such a move by taking the initiative and seeking a vote of confidence. He said he had to have something, even if he had "to go to Satan" to get it. On 27 March, Adoula called for a convocation of members of all six provincial assemblies to meet on 2 April at the University of Lovanium, near Leopoldville. Adoula's move is apparently designed to exert pressure on Tshombé to end what Adoula charges are "dilatatory" tactics.

If Adoula were to break off the talks while blaming Tshombé for their failure, it would seem that he would need to unveil some dramatic new tactic aimed at solving the Katangan impasse in order to maintain his political position. Another Congolese army "invasion" of Katanga, without UN logistic support, is almost certain to fail and thus worsen Adoula's position. In view of previous reports of plans by him to seek bilateral aid outside the UN framework--and his sharp criticism of the US and UN--this appears to be the most likely tack. If he got no satisfactory response from the Afro-Asian states, Adoula might, in desperation, turn to the bloc for assistance as the only means available to him.

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