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COPY NO. 74

OCI NO. 0409/62

23 March 1962

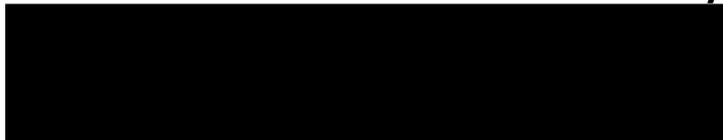
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2000



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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25-108512

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CONGO

Adoula and Tshombé on 18 March held an initial meeting reportedly devoted to "identifying the problems" and then got together for a short private session. Tshombé, [REDACTED], showed no resentment over Adoula's absence from Leopoldville on his arrival, is in a good mood, and has apparently settled himself and his 30-member entourage for a long bargaining period. [REDACTED] say that Adoula's 15 March trip to Coquilhatville, in Equateur Province, was required for political reasons. Adoula, who is of course interested in trying to impress on Tshombé that he is only a provincial leader, claims he had no official word that Tshombé was coming.

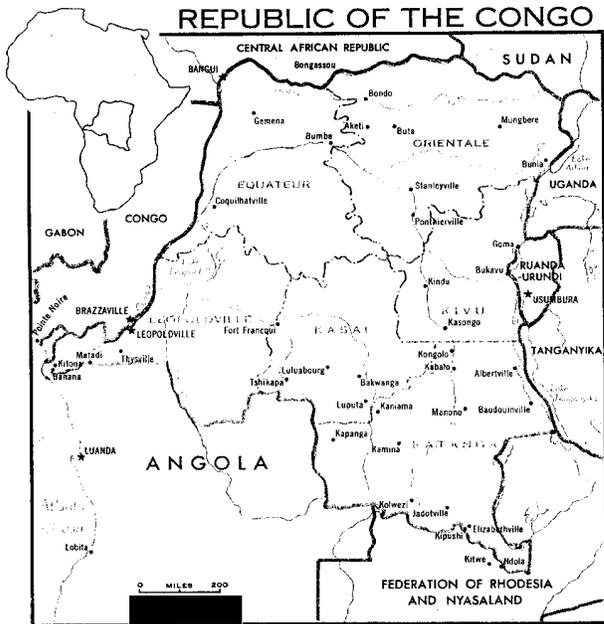
The two sides have apparently worked out a schedule of daily meetings, but there is as yet no information on the substantive content of the talks held so far. Adoula, pessimistic and sensitive to charges that he let Tshombé "off the hook" at Kitona last December, is trying to play the meetings in as low a key as possible. The prime minister appears less flexible, probably reflecting the mounting pressure on him to demonstrate to his followers some progress on the Katanga problem and a growing awareness that he may be in serious political trouble unless he can do so. In a talk [REDACTED] Adoula insisted that the Loi Fundamentale--the draft constitution which establishes the primacy of Leopoldville over the

provinces--could not be suspended by agreement between him and Tshombé and must remain in effect until revised. Adoula said bluntly that "it was time to find out whether Tshombé would or would not integrate." Other remarks by Adoula suggested that he continues to believe that only force will bring Tshombé around.

Adoula's frustrations are evident in a letter he sent on 15 March to UN chief Gardiner to the effect that unless the Katanga problem were settled by late April, he would have to withdraw from UN forces the facilities and authority previously given. Adoula criticized the UN Command for its lack of support for Leopoldville's efforts to quash Tshombé, accused the UN of not carrying out its mandate, and charged that as a consequence Tshombé's gendarmerie had increased its effectiveness and firepower. While UN officials tend to discount Adoula's resolve for a showdown with the UN, his remarks are in line with his reported new interest in direct bilateral aid outside the UN framework. The letter may have been designed to set the stage for some move in that direction if his talks with Tshombé fail.

Tshombé gives every indication that he will hold to his long-standing position of autonomy for Katanga within a loose Congo federation. The position papers prepared for Tshombé support this, and economic concessions suggested in return for political concessions indicate a tough bargaining position. While the

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tions in Katanga and a share in its revenues. Tshombé's Conakat party is pushing this line in Leopoldville, and his minister of interior, Munongo, is reportedly on a peace mission in the Baluba area of central Katanga.

While a Conakat-Baluba reconciliation appears to be at the core of Tshombé's maneuvers, there is evidence that Tshombé is trying to convert other present and potential anti-Adoula support within the Congolese parliament and in the provinces. He has reportedly asked Joseph Kasongo, former Congo Assembly president and a leader of Lumumba's old National Congolese Movement (MNC), to send a delegation to Elisabethville, and he has also agreed to send a Conakat delegation to an MNC-sponsored congress of anti-Leopoldville groups in Stanleyville in late April or early May.

papers indicated that Tshombé would agree to ship ores by the former Matadi route, to contribute to the central government budget, and to accept a portion of the Congo's public debt, Katanga would continue to collect all mining export taxes pending a political settlement, maintain a separate currency, and retain 85 percent of all foreign exchange earnings.

The embassy believes that the principal Baluba leader, Jason Sendwe, one of Adoula's vice premiers, will oppose the scheme, but notes that other lesser Baluba leaders are tempted, and an alignment between Tshombé's Conakat party and other parties may develop. The Katangan youth group's call for the release of Gizenga may be part of an attempt to make a line-up of radicals with Tshombé's Conakat more palatable.

While he negotiates with Adoula, Tshombé is also attempting political maneuvers designed to weaken the prime minister's position. Tshombé's main effort appears to be toward a reconciliation with Baluba leaders from northern Katanga to form a "united Katanga" and undercut Leopoldville's attempts to split off the north. Besides pointing out to the Balubas that if the province were split they would be left with the unproductive part, Tshombé is reportedly offering them government posi-

Gizenga, although still out of circulation, may produce still another problem for Adoula. He is reported to be threatening a hunger strike unless he is released or tried soon. Should he follow through on this threat, the propaganda campaign such a move could generate might force Adoula to take further steps against him and thereby create more strains between moderate and radical forces.