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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

Efforts to bring Tshombé and Adoula together have once again been hampered by the threat of military outbreaks. On 21 February, the UN Command announced that Katangan forces had reoccupied the town of Kongolo in northern Katanga and were moving eastward toward Albertville. [REDACTED] that approximately 200 Katangan troops, reportedly including some Europeans, moved into Kongolo following the withdrawal of Stanleyville-based Congolese troops. The Congolese soldiers reportedly became demoralized following rumors that families left behind in Kindu and Stanleyville were in danger of starvation.

The reoccupation of Kongolo appears to have been interpreted in Leopoldville as strengthening Tshombé's hand prior to talks with Adoula. Tshombé emphasized that he was still prepared to

meet with Adoula if the UN would provide suitable guarantees for his personal safety. On 25 February, Tshombé told UN officials that he had no objections to a trip to Kongolo by a joint UN-Katangan inspection team. The central government, however, which has been trying to fill the political vacuum in northern Katanga, decided on military countermeasures. On 23 February, General Mobutu began the piecemeal airlifting of four battalions from Luluabourg to Albertville, utilizing the four transport aircraft available to the Congolese Army.

The UN Command initially viewed the Congolese Army move with equanimity. The senior UN representative in the Congo, Robert Gardiner, advised Mobutu that while the UN could not provide transport aircraft, it would provide fighter cover for

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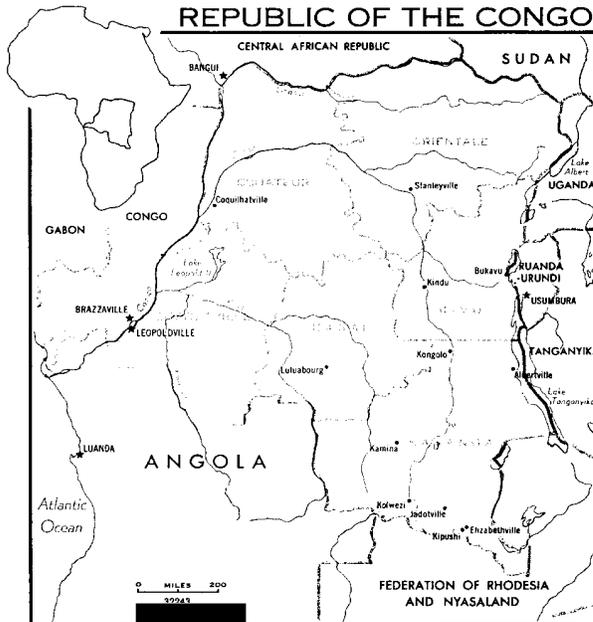
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a Congolese airlift. The UN subsequently withdrew the offer, as well as a proposition by which the UN Command would "sell" some UN vehicles in Albertville to the central government. Gardiner characterized recent moves by both sides in northern Katanga as "an elaborate bluff and counterbluff operation," but he added that the UN would discourage further military adventures.

In Elisabethville, there continues to be apprehension concerning a possible UN move in key mining towns in southern Katanga. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], despite disclaimers, the UN Command intends to occupy towns such as Jadotville, Kipushi, and Kolwezi. The UN military commander, Brigadier Raja, returned to Elisabethville on 26 February from leave abroad. Although working relations between Katangan and UN authorities continue generally satisfactory, UN spokesmen have been critical of Tshombé's failure to proceed to Leopoldville, and UN commanders speak openly of plans "to move on Kipushi" and other mining towns.

Senior officials of Union Miniere have periodically alluded to a plan by which the mining combine would place in escrow as much as 75 percent of the revenues hitherto paid to Tshombé in the form of dividends and taxes. Such a move would cut Tshombé off from his main source of revenue until he came to an accommodation with the central government. Union Miniere officials in Brussels state that Tshombé has refused to consider the escrow plan prior



to meeting with Adoula. Union Miniere, which fears economic retaliation by Tshombé, shows no disposition to force the issue at this time.

In Leopoldville, Adoula has indicated [REDACTED] that he hopes Gizenga can be given a suspended sentence for his secessionist activities and then be sent into exile. To date, however, the central government has not preferred charges or taken steps to remove Gizenga's parliamentary immunity. At the same time, Adoula has not persuaded Gbenye to accept "promotion" from the key Interior Minister to a vice premiership. Local observers regard Gbenye's participation in the Adoula government as important to the maintenance of a balanced coalition. [REDACTED]

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