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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGO

[redacted] notes that Congolese Premier Adoula's failure on 16 July to obtain absolute parliamentary majorities for his reorganized government showed "an embarrassing and unexpected weakness," but does not point to his early fall. His opponents marshaled 44 votes against him in the lower house, and the 60 favorable votes fell nine short of the absolute majority specified in the basic law. In the Senate, no formal vote was taken because the opposition walked out. Adoula contends that no more than a simple majority was required in either house, since he was only reshuffling his government.

The presidents of the assembly and the Senate declared on 17 July that the new Adoula government was legally in office. The opponents, nevertheless, charge that the Adoula government no longer has a legal basis, and have petitioned President Kasavubu to name a new premier. Adoula is expected to move quickly to recess parliament.

Adoula's varied opponents are stronger and better organized, but are still bound together only by the negative aim of overturning the government. They range from the Gizengists and Lumumbists--led by Christophe Gbenye, one of two vice premiers removed by Adoula--to Tshombé's Conakat party deputies. [redacted] reports that the opposition, encouraged by its show of strength, now is building its hopes around the other ousted vice premier, Jean Bolikango, a leader in Equateur Province. Both Gbenye and Bolikango have reportedly sent delegations to ask Tshombé for more help. Among their complaints against Adoula is their charge that he has placed the Congo under US tutelage.

The consolidation of forces against Adoula stems mainly from his failure to open Katanga's rich mining coffers to the rest of the Congo. No progress on Katanga's reintegration has been made since the Adoula-Tshombé talks ended on 26 June. Adoula's position appears in fact to have hardened. He has flatly stated he will not appoint the Leopoldville members to the joint commissions agreed to by the two leaders, or resume talks until Tshombé gives positive assurances that he intends to reintegrate. Adoula seems increasingly convinced that further negotiations with Tshombé are hopeless and that force is the only feasible answer.

Tension in Elisabethville is again high, with all the elements present for a serious clash. Katangan military forces now include an estimated 350 European mercenaries, an increase of approximately 100. [redacted]

[redacted] former members of the French Secret Army in Algeria account for much of the increase. Tshombé's introduction of 2,000 Katangan troops into Elisabethville to celebrate Katangan "independence" on 11 July so irritated UN officials that they erected a roadblock on the only main route remaining open into the city. Katangan forces, in turn, erected an opposing barrier.

Scattered firing has occurred, and on 17 July an officially organized mob of Katangan women attacked the Indian-manned UN roadblock with sticks, stones, and brush fires, and denounced the US as well as the UN. Both sides have strengthened their barricades, and the UN is sending 500 reinforcements from Leopoldville. [redacted]