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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

Tshombé, under strong urging from Brussels and London, has apparently decided that he must move toward a reconciliation with Leopoldville. He informed U Thant and Adoula on 14 January that "we are ready" to proclaim the end of Katangan secession, to give UN forces freedom of movement throughout Katanga, and to return to Elisabethville "to arrange the modalities" for application of the UN reintegration plan.

Tshombé posed the condition, however, that Leopoldville grant a blanket freedom from prosecution for him, his government, all Katangan officials and agents, and all persons under his authority. He asked to meet with UN officials in Elisabethville, and invited Adoula to the Katangan capital "to confirm the national reconciliation." Ambassador Gullion reports that Adoula's initial reaction to meeting Tshombé was not entirely negative.

Tshombé statement followed almost a week of conflicting pronouncements and actions, in which he pledged allegiance to the UN plan, threatened to pursue a policy of "scorched earth" if the UN did not halt its military operations, and again fled from Elisabethville back to the mining center of Kolwezi, still held by his forces.

While Tshombé's behavior remains unpredictable, Belgian and British diplomats in Katanga appear to have convinced him that if he is to salvage anything at all, he has to move toward a reconciliation with Leopoldville. Brussels and London have been particularly worried that if UN military operations continue, Tshombé will destroy the important Union Minière installations at Kolwezi. They probably told him that this

would cost him any chance whatsoever of remaining in power in Katanga.

In the hope of salvaging something of his position, Tshombé will probably attempt to push things back as far as possible to the status quo ante. He can be expected to try to draw Adoula and the UN into negotiations by insisting, with the backing of Brussels and London, on the application of the UN reintegration plan. In addition to the general amnesty, Tshombé probably will push for other parts of the plan, particularly a federal constitution guaranteeing provincial autonomy, the allocation to Katanga of a reasonable amount of the mining revenues, and the retention of some of his forces as provincial police. He probably still believes he can re-establish himself fully in the future.

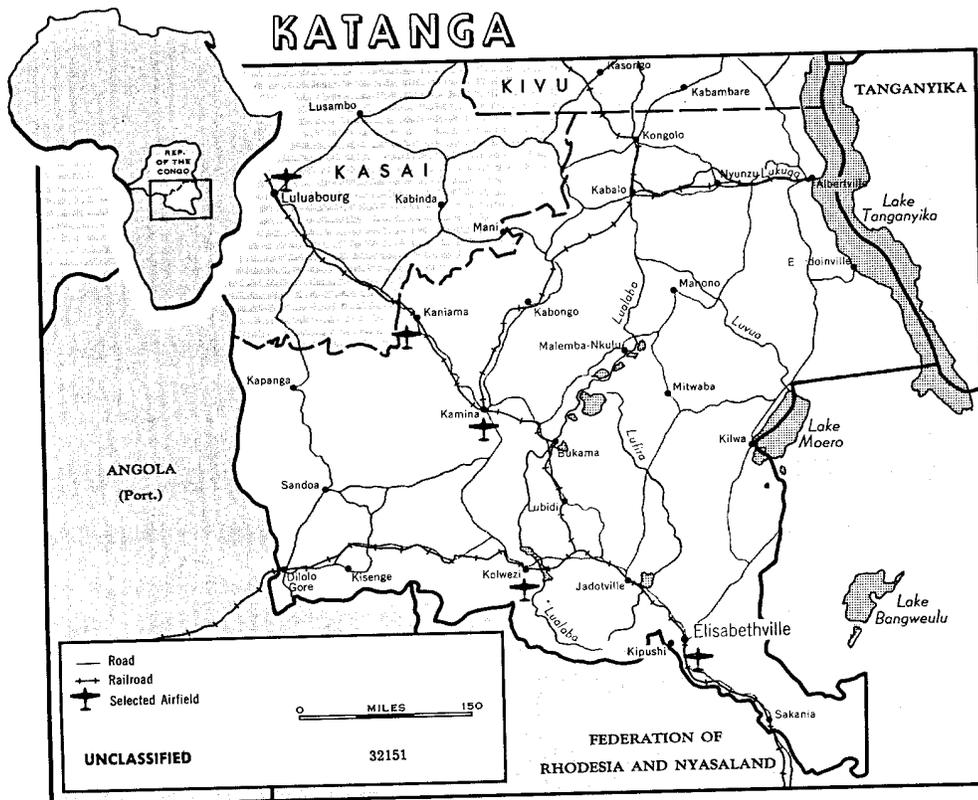
Both Adoula and the UN appear still willing to make use of Tshombé's influence if he is willing to cooperate in order to avoid more fighting, destruction, and possible tribal upheavals. It is becoming more and more clear, however, that neither Adoula nor the UN officials believe Tshombé is indispensable. Both appear perfectly willing to extend political and military control over Katanga without reference to him. Although Adoula still considers Tshombé to be president of a truncated South Katanga Province, he does not trust him. If Adoula does not try to eliminate Tshombé from the political scene entirely, he will certainly work to strip him of his power.

UN Under Secretary Bunche has indicated to US officials that the UN is indifferent to what Tshombé does or does not do. Bunche says that the UN

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has nothing in particular to discuss with Tshombé, and that, with Tshombé's support rapidly dissolving, nothing should be done to restore his prestige.

UN officials have made it clear they expect action from Tshombé, not more words. U Thant said he would insist that UN troops be permitted to enter Kolwezi before any contact was made with Tshombé on implementation of the UN plan. Adoula has promptly reaffirmed President Kasavubu's previous statement of amnesty for Katangan political offenders. Leopoldville said it would not, however, extend any amnesty to

Tshombé mercenaries or those guilty of sabotage.

UN forces took Sakania unopposed on 12 January, opening up the blocked rail line from Elisabethville into Northern Rhodesia. These forces are awaiting bridging equipment and parachutes for a planned move on Kolwezi set for the week of 20-25 January. UN officials have not been impressed by Tshombé's previous threats to blow up Kolwezi, and if he does not follow through on his 14 January declaration to permit entry of UN forces, they will move in anyway. ~~(SECRET)~~
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