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COPY NO. 79
OCI NO. 0262/63

11 January 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2000



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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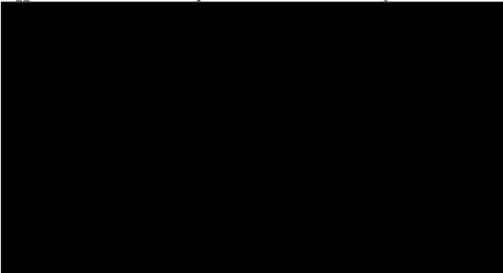
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WEEKLY REVIEW

CONGO

Tshombé has called for the rapid implementation of the UN reintegration plan without further bloodshed or "useless destruction." By this gesture, by returning to Elisabethville on 8 January, and by agreeing to use his personal influence to prevent new fighting--after a night of house arrest--the Katangan leader appears to have chosen to try to salvage what he can of his previous influence and power, rather than attempt a guerrilla war.



Tshombé probably hopes that if he cooperates with the UN he will be able to re-establish himself and continue his struggle with Leopoldville another day. It is questionable to what degree he has in fact lost influence and prestige in the eyes of his African supporters. He has some bargaining power left in his control of Kolwezi and the threat to destroy Union Miniere (UMHK) installations there. If he were to lose all hope of regaining his position he would probably try to carry out his threat. This prospect appears to have frightened UMHK officials in Leopoldville into stalling on financial talks which they had just begun with the Adoula government.

Both Leopoldville and the UN are seeking a settlement in which Tshombé's influence and power are so curtailed that he could not secede again. Premier Adoula is trying to move rapidly to establish the central government's presence in Elisabethville. Some 100 Congolese bureaucrats are already there, and he hopes to send soon at least a token Congolese Army force.

Adoula says he has no desire to see Tshombé crushed. According to the premier, the re-establishment of the Katangan government will be worked out in a legal way. Leopoldville apparently plans to have the Katangan assembly meet, and if it decides to continue Tshombé as provincial president, Adoula says he will not object. Adoula may, nonetheless, try to exploit the UN's victory and stampede the assembly into selecting a more pliable provincial government.

Adoula, afraid he might again be bested by Tshombé in any renewed talks, is refusing to meet him personally, and wants the details of a settlement worked out without reference to Tshombé.

Adoula is reported to be incensed that Tshombé was allowed to return to Elisabethville without the consent or knowledge of the central government.

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UN officials have made it clear, however, that they will continue to extend UN military control over Katanga with or without Tshombé's concurrence. They have insisted that Tshombé immediately renounce any plans for further destruction, and permit unimpeded movement of UN forces to Kolwezi.

The UN command has been somewhat baffled, however, as to how to get there quickly enough to prevent destruction of the mining facilities. It lacks bridging equipment for a ground move from either Jadotville or Kamina, and its paratroops are not adequately trained or equipped for an air-drop under existing circumstances.

Soviet Reaction

As long as the secession of Katanga continued, the Soviet Union was able to make propaganda capital in both the Congo and the rest of Africa by associating that province and

Tshombé with Western financial interests and by calling on the UN to end the secession. Given the propaganda value of this issue and the fact that the longer the secession continued the greater was the chance that a more radical government would take power in Leopoldville, Moscow has been far from happy to see the UN actually bring about reunification for the benefit of the pro-Western Adoula government.

After some initial hesitancy, Soviet propaganda has sought to create the image of a struggle for Katangan wealth between the US and its European allies, identifying the UN operation with Western interference in the internal affairs of the Congo. While the UN operation has been viewed favorably insofar as it is an effort to end the Katanga secession, Soviet commentators claim to see joint Western efforts through the UN to preserve at least a degree of Katangan independence.

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