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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGO

After much hesitation and indecision Premier Adoula has decided to recess the Congo Parliament until March. A statement to that effect has been drafted and presumably will be issued in a few days.

Opposition attacks on the government have become increasingly effective since late November. The unanimous resolution by the lower house on 21 December calling for release of the leftist former Stanleyville leader, Antoine Gizenga, and a near-censure of a second one of Adoula's ministers, apparently convinced the premier he must make a decisive move if the government were to stay in office.

Adoula's reluctance to recess parliament is evident in the draft order. It contains no criticism of the opposition and clearly states that parliament is only being put on vacation, not dissolved, and that the next session will resume in March. In the interim, Adoula says, the government will concentrate on solving the Katangan problem and revising the Congo economy.

Congo army troops in Leopoldville were alerted on 23 December and restricted to barracks, but Adoula dropped earlier plans to arrest 19 opposition deputies. Outcries from the opposition are certain, but

Adoula's continuation of parliamentary salaries and Mobutu's support of the move should prevent any serious anti-government demonstrations.

The latest effort to get Tshombé to end his secession is at a standstill. The Belgian proposal that Union Miniere (UMHK) henceforth split its export tax payments and foreign exchange earnings between Katanga and the central government--accepted by Tshombé on 12 December--is stalled over the arrangements for negotiations on its details.

Tshombé maintains that only the Katangan government, not UMHK, is competent to discuss the payment plan, and he has vetoed a UN invitation to the Belgian head of the Katangan National Bank and local UMHK financial officials to begin discussions in Leopoldville. The bank official refuses to go without Tshombé's approval, and UMHK officials insist they cannot expose their facilities and personnel to Katangan retaliation by taking unilateral action. Tshombé charges that U Thant's call for an economic embargo against Katanga, and US and UN intentions to impose a solution by force, as indicated by the visit of a US military mission to the Congo, have changed the previous atmosphere of detente.

UN Under Secretary Bunche told US officials on 20 December that were it not for fear of jeopardizing the impending negotiations on the payment plan, the UN would have already demanded that Tshombé remove

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WEEKLY REVIEW

