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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGO

Political maneuvering in the Congo is centering increasingly on the constitution being drafted by UN experts in Leopoldville. Tshombé is still demanding that the UN experts consult with him before completing their draft. He has repeatedly insisted that his agreement on the whole range of issues involved in the UN conciliation plan hinges on formulating a constitution that would provide for a considerable measure of provincial autonomy.

Adoula, still plagued by fears that any such special consideration of Katangan views would further weaken his own political position, is persisting in his refusal to allow the experts to confer with Tshombé. Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak has warned that if Adoula sticks to this position, Tshombé will have a plausible excuse to refuse to move ahead on financial and military integration.

Even should Adoula reach agreement with Tshombé on the constitution, it is becoming increasingly clear that the premier faces a critical test if and when he presents the document to parliament. Lumumba's old party has come out against both the UN plan and the concept of a constitution along federal lines--Tshombé's requirement.

The Congo's present constitution requires a two-thirds vote to institute a new constitution, both on the document as a whole and on each of its articles. The draft contains over 200 articles. When parliament last met in July, the Lumumbists, Tshombe's

Conakat party, and other dissidents were able to block Adoula from winning even a majority of the total seats for his reorganized government.

Tshombe, meanwhile, has appointed his representatives to three joint Leopoldville-Katanga commissions, and meetings have begun. However, he has already charged that the UN experts are not acting as neutrals, and several reports indicate that Katangan opponents of reconciliation are pressuring Tshombé to go slow. Katangan foreign minister Kimba has stated that Katanga did not agree to a 50-50 split of its revenues, and that it could surrender to the central government only the foreign exchange not needed in Katanga. He said also that Katangan representatives on the military commission were balking. Such statements do not suggest an easy solution of the issues involved.

UN officials in New York are beginning to express pessimism that Tshombé will implement the UN plan unless he is pressured to do so. Adoula remains highly skeptical the UN will ever be able to bring Tshombé around.

Military movements and fighting in northern Katanga have been limited, but the situation there may be building up to a serious outbreak. There is evidence that Tshombé's forces are growing. He is believed to have added a dozen aircraft to his air arm, and the Katangan forces now have a strength of 18,000 men. Three additional battalions have been identified, and other units strengthened.

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