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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONGO

Joseph Ileo, the Congolese Government's recently appointed minister-resident in Katanga, has begun what may prove to be a long and difficult period of reintegrating the province. He has privately described his mission as one of an executor of integration. While he has begun talks with Tshombé, Ileo has made it clear that he does not intend to get bogged down in involved negotiations with the Katangan leader. He said soon after his arrival he would not tolerate Katangan obstructionist tactics, and on 28 January he ordered the arrest of directors of the former Katangan National Bank who had been instructed not to divulge information on the bank's operations.

Ileo does not intend to adhere to the letter of U Thant's reintegration plan, according to several sources. He is said to feel it has been "overtaken by events."

Leopoldville appears at least temporarily to have dropped the idea of convening a special session of the combined North-South Katanga Assembly as a means of ousting Tshombé, or reshuffling his government. Ileo has said that such a move would be illegal, since North Katanga has been established by the Congolese Parliament as a separate province and this situation could be changed only by new parliamentary action. Adoula may be waiting to establish a

firmer grip on the province before moving against Tshombé.

Anti-Tshombé Baluba tribal pressures for a combined session remain strong, however. Bertin Mwamba, president of the Congolese Chamber of Deputies, maintains that North Katanga is too poor to get along on its own. He apparently is willing to let Tshombé remain, but wants to oust some of his ministers. On the other hand Isaac Kalonji, president of the Congolese Senate, opposes reunification of Katanga, even though he wants to oust Tshombé.

The behavior of central government officials in Elisabethville has alarmed both UN and Belgian officials. UN officials are trying to rein in Leopoldville's politicians and to limit the number of the carpetbagger horde until the detailed work of reintegration is completed. Foreign Minister Spaak says he fears that replacing Tshombé would provoke tribal outbreaks and violence, although he says Brussels is not seeking to retain Tshombé "in perpetuity."

Leopoldville is continuing to press for the introduction of more Congo National Army (ANC) troops into South Katanga. Ileo and General Mobutu have succeeded in persuading UN officials to permit ANC soldiers to patrol with UN troops in Elisabethville, and they now are pressing for the extension of mixed

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patrols to the key mining town of Jadotville, Kolwezi, and Kipushi. Mobutu wants to send another ANC battalion to Elisabethville, and one each to Jadotville and Kolwezi. UN officials, although fearful of the European reaction, have apparently agreed to the gradual introduction of three or four more ANC battalions.

Tshombé has moved quickly to reassume his mantle of Katanga's provincial president. He has held a series of cabinet meetings, has toured the African communes of Elisabethville announcing that he is the sole authority in Katanga, and, according to a usually reliable source, called in selected members of the Katanga Assembly to remind them he is the legally elected president and to warn them to remain loyal. In a letter to Adoula on 27 January he asked what the exact functions of Ileo were. Tshombé said that neither he nor his government

wanted any "conflicts of competence" to arise.

The central thread running through Tshombé's actions since his return is strict application of the U Thant plan. He has now offered to send his officers to Leopoldville to take an oath of allegiance as provided in the plan. He protested to the US consul on 26 January that the takeover of the Katangan banks was not consonant with the UN plan, and several times repeated that either the plan should be applied as written or Leopoldville should declare it null and void.

The Katangan leader now is seeking to involve the UN in resolving his differences with Leopoldville. On 24 January he asked Thant to appoint a special UN representative to settle "certain problems" which had arisen "in application of your plan." (CONFIDENTIAL, NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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