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Mandatory Review

TDCSDB-315/01045-64

DATE OF INFO. AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1964

Case # NLJ 98-428

DISTR. 16 OCTOBER 1964

Document # 230

SUBJECT

TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CONSULAR PERSONNEL AT STANLEYVILLE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs (C)

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

[REDACTED]

REF IN 94148

TDCSDB-315/01019-64

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

[REDACTED]

TDCSDB-315/01036-64

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2001

1. IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE FALL OF STANLEYVILLE, THE PERSONNEL IN THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN THE CITY REMAINED IN THEIR STRONG ROOM. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF GEN. NICOLAS OLENGA OF THE REBEL FORCES, THE AMERICANS EMERGED FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE, AND THEY WERE PRESENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY OLENGA, TO WHICH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSULAR CORPS WERE ALSO SUMMONED. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] WHO WAS PRESENT AT THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, OLENGA PUBLICLY THREATENED THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL, SAYING, "TODAY I FEEL STRONGER THAN YOU. IF I HAD THE MEANS

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OF TRANSPORT I WOULD MAKE WAR ON YOUR COUNTRY." THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF OLENGA WAS HELD FIVE OR SIX DAYS AFTER THE FALL OF STANLEYVILLE.

2. ON APPROXIMATELY 15 AUGUST, AT ABOUT 8 P.M., [REDACTED] DISCLOSED

THAT (PORTION GARBLED-BEING SVCD)* VERY BAD

IN THE CITY, AS THE AMERICANS HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED BY THE REBEL AUTHORITIES. (SOURCE COMMENT: [REDACTED] SHOULD BE KEPT OFF [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ALL HOUSE LIGHTS [REDACTED] AS THERE WAS NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER THERE WOULD BE WHOLESALE ARRESTS.)

3. BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 15 AND 20 AUGUST, [REDACTED] WERE DRIVING ALONGSIDE CAMP SERGEANT KETELE. [REDACTED] TO SLOW DOWN AND LOOK DISCREETLY TO HIS RIGHT. [REDACTED] OBSERVED FIVE WHITE MEN BEING DISEMBARKED FROM A TRUCK. "THOSE ARE THE AMERICANS,"

[REDACTED] OBVIOUSLY MEANING THE AMERICAN CONSULATE PERSONNEL. [REDACTED] OBSERVED THEM AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 50 FEET, AND THOUGH [REDACTED] HE COULD SEE THAT THEIR FACES AND HEADS WERE SWOLLEN AND BRUISED. THEIR MOUTHS WERE STUFFED WITH CLOTHS, WHICH ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] WERE AMERICAN FLAGS TAKEN FROM THE CONSULATE CARS.

4. SOME TIME LATER, BUT ROUGHLY AROUND 20 AUGUST, [REDACTED] SAID HE HAD TALKED TO [REDACTED] WHO HAD SEEN THE AMERICANS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BUT HAD BEEN THREATENED BY THE REBELS NOT TO PUT PRESSURE ON TO VISIT THEM. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THEY HAD BEEN BADLY BEATEN AND HAD BRUISES ON THEIR FACES AND ARMS. THEIR CLOTHING WAS VERY DIRTY. ONE OF THEM

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HAD BEEN BLEEDING FROM THE HEAD ON ONE OCCASION. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE MAN MOST SEVERELY BEATEN WAS THE VICE CONSUL, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A YOUNG MAN OF 28-30 YEARS WHOSE FATHER IS REPORTEDLY AN AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE. THE FACT THAT THE VICE CONSUL HAD BEEN THE ONE MOST SEVERELY BEATEN WAS CONFIRMED [REDACTED] BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CLAIMED

ALSO TO HAVE SEEN THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL AT CAMP KETELE. ON ONE OCCASION [REDACTED] REMARKED [REDACTED] THAT HE WONDERED WHAT THE REACTION OF THE AMERICAN GOVT WOULD BE IF IT WERE KNOWN HOW BADLY THE CONSULATE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN TREATED.

5. AFTER THE REBELS FAILED TO CAPTURE BUKAVU AND WERE DRIVEN FROM THE CITY IN LATE AUGUST, THE REBEL AUTHORITIES RETALIATED BY PLACING THE AMERICANS IN THE STANLEYVILLE CENTRAL PRISON ACROSS FROM THE BOUCHERIE DEMAIGRE. THERE THEY WERE FORCED TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR AND EAT WITH THEIR HANDS. THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REMOVED TO THE SABENA GUEST HOUSE, BUT AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTOPHE GBENYE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER THEY WERE AGAIN PUT IN PRISON, FOR A PERIOD OF 2-3 WEEKS. AFTER THAT THEY WERE AGAIN TAKEN BACK TO THE SABENA GUEST HOUSE.

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6. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL DURING AUGUST, GASTON SOUMIALOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH [REDACTED] HIMSELF ATTENDED. THIS WAS HELD AT THE PRESIDENCY, WHICH IS THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNOR AT STANLEYVILLE DURING THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD. THIS IS IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT, AND THE [REDACTED] DROVE PAST THE

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SABENA GUEST HOUSE TO ARRIVE AT THE PRESIDENCY. HE OBSERVED ABOUT 10 REBEL SOLDIERS GUARDING THE GUEST HOUSE. HE OBSERVED NO REBEL SOLDIERS AT THE AIRPORT. [REDACTED] LATER RECOUNTED THAT, AT THE TIME OF THE LANDING OF THE RED CROSS PLANE AT STANLEYVILLE, THERE WERE ABOUT 50-60 REBEL SOLDIERS AT THE AIRPORT. THIS WAS THE ESTIMATE OF [REDACTED] WHO CARRIED A PRESCRIPTION THERE TO GIVE TO THE RED CROSS DELEGATION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MEDICINES FOR A SERIOUSLY ILL PERSON IN STANLEYVILLE).

7. [REDACTED] GBENYE ARRIVED IN STANLEYVILLE ON 4 OR 5 SEPTEMBER. A PARADE OF REBEL MILITARY WAS HELD IN FRONT OF THE LUMUMBA MONUMENT AND GBENYE CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE STANLEY HOTEL. HE DIRECTED THE [REDACTED] TO FETCH THE AMERICAN CONSUL AND BRING HIM TO THE CONFERENCE. [REDACTED] WENT TO THE SABENA GUEST HOUSE BUT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DOCUMENT OF AUTHORIZATION FROM GBENYE. THE MILITARY THERE BECAME VERY AGITATED AND SAID THEY WERE UNDER STRICT ORDERS FROM OLENGA NOT TO REMOVE THE AMERICANS. FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT, THE AMERICANS WERE PLACED BACK IN THE CENTRAL PRISON, AT THE INSTIGATION OF EITHER OLENGA OR HIS DEPUTY MAJ. (FNU) OPERE. [REDACTED] RECOLLECTION, THOUGH HE IS NOT SURE, WAS THAT OLENGA WAS OUT OF STANLEYVILLE AT THE TIME).

8. GBENYE GAVE ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT 20 SEPTEMBER, AT A TIME WHEN THE BATTLE OF LISALA WAS GOING ON. THE CONSULAR CORPS WERE PRESENT AS USUAL, BUT AGAIN NOT THE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO

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[REDACTED] GBENYE SAID, "THE AMERICANS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DESTROYING THE POPULATION WITH THEIR AIRCRAFT. I HAVE GIVEN AN ORDER TO HAVE A MERCENARY BROUGHT HERE. WHEN THIS IS DONE, YOU WILL SEE HOW A NEGRO ("UN NEGRE") TAKES VENGEANCE." LATER DURING THE CONFERENCE, GBENYE SAID, "I CANNOT REPLY FOR THE SECURITY OF THE EUROPEAN POPULATION IF THESE COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO INTERFERE IN OUR AFFAIRS."

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[REDACTED] AND SAID THAT THE CONSULS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEND MESSAGES TO THEIR GOVTS, ASKING THAT THEY MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNTRIES IN QUESTION TO STOP GIVING MILITARY AID TO THE LEOPOLDVILLE GOVT. GBENYE REPLIED THAT NO ONE COULD TRANSMIT ANY MESSAGE FROM STANLEYVILLE. GBENYE THEN CHANGED HIS TUNE AND SAID, "I DID NOT MEAN THAT YOUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER... I CANNOT CONTAIN THE MASSES."

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9. FOLLOWING THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, THE POPULAR ARMY ROUNDED UP MISSIONARIES FROM THE LISALA, BUMBA, AKETI AND BONDO AREAS AND BROUGHT THEM INTO STANLEYVILLE. THEY HAD MISTAKEN GBENYE'S "MERCENARIES" FOR "MISSIONARIES". [REDACTED] IN STANLEYVILLE OBTAINED FROM GBENYE PERMISSION TO SEND THEM BACK TO THEIR MISSIONS.

10. FIELD DISSEM: STATE (AMBASSADOR ONLY), ARMY (ARMY ATTACHE ONLY) CINCMEAFSA.
11. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: MISSING PORTION WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF IT MATERIALLY AFFECTS THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.)

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END OF MESSAGE

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