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Situation in the Congo

Indian Brigadier I. J. Rikhye, who was Hammarskjold's military adviser and with Undersecretary Ralph Bunche seems to have assumed direction of the Congo operation, on 18 September gave American officials his analysis of the difficulties encountered by the UN forces in Katanga. According to Rikhye, the original UN plan had had the limited objective of closing down the Elisabethville radio station. This action triggered the return to their units of many of the European mercenaries who were in the process of repatriation, and fighting spread unexpectedly. Furthermore, the Katangan soldiers often were better armed than the UN troops, and the limited UN airlift capability has been unable to provide either support artillery or transport in adequate quantity. Rikhye stated that the Swedish and Irish troops were trained mainly in police functions and were ineffective in combat.

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