

~~TOP SECRET~~



5 August 1961



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Congo: Adoula's initial statements following his assumption of the premiership have emphasized his intention to restore Katanga as an integral part of the Congo. Adoula's implied threat of military action against Tshombé has been supported by UN officials, who have reaffirmed that moves by the central government to reintegrate Katanga with the Congo would not be opposed by the UN.

The American Consulate in Elisabethville reports that Adoula's statement of his intentions concerning Katanga has made a strong impression on Tshombé and his ministers, and that Tshombé appears to be searching desperately for means to preserve stability in Katanga. [redacted]

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[redacted] discipline among Katanga army units outside the city has deteriorated to a point where soldiers obey orders only on a selective basis. The consulate observes that Katanga army units may be content to continue under present conditions so long as they are paid. Nonetheless, the Katanga army no longer appears to represent a formidable military threat to efforts by the UN and the central government to reunify the Congo. [redacted]

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[redacted] Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak has expressed to Ambassador MacArthur his concern over a recent message from Hammarskjold indicating that, in view of Tshombé's unwillingness to cooperate for Congo unity, the UN planned immediate action to disarm the Katanga army. Spaak stated that he believed such precipitous action might cause the Katanga government to react violently, and doubted whether the UN was capable of keeping the situation under control. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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