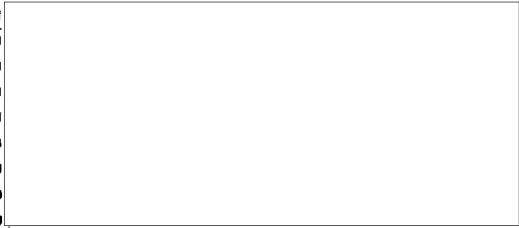


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16 September 1961



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 September 1961

DAILY BRIEF [REDACTED] (b)(3)

***Congo:** Attacks on UN forces in Katanga continued through 15 September. The US Consulate in Elisabethville reported yesterday evening, however, that UN officials there, while seriously concerned about the Irish company still under heavy attack at Jadotville, believed that the situations in Elisabethville and Kamina were "in hand" and that the Katangan fighting would "slacken." UN authorities planned to airlift two companies of Swedish troops from Leopoldville to Kamina yesterday, and early additional UN reinforcements were also expected in Elisabethville. No

Hammarskjold, in conversation with US Ambassador Gullion in Leopoldville yesterday, was optimistic regarding the possibility of a cease-fire in Katanga, and said that Katangan Vice President Kibwe had promised to help arrange a meeting between Tshombé and UN representative O'Brien. Hammarskjold said there was no question of the UN giving up positions it now holds or of renouncing its mission; he added that if a cease-fire could not be negotiated, the UN military would take the "initiative," a step he said it had avoided doing thus far in order to minimize bloodshed and destruction. In Elisabethville, O'Brien hoped to have a meeting with Tshombé yesterday evening; as of 0500 EDT this morning it was not known whether this meeting took place. Although both Tshombé and O'Brien are believed to be anxious for a cease-fire, neither has appeared willing to abandon his political objectives.

The UN has recently attempted to build up the authority of Kibwe, who had announced on Elisabethville radio on 14 September that he had assumed control of the Katangan forces "because Tshombé is unable to carry out his functions." Cease-fire appeals by Kibwe and O'Brien went ignored, however, and Tshombé yesterday continued his efforts to whip up popular support over "Radio Free Katanga." Katangan armed forces reportedly have been reinforced by tribal warriors from the bush.

According to the American Consulate in Elisabethville, UN officials there have largely blamed local Europeans, especially

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Belgians, for the failure of their plan to secure Katanga for Premier Adoula. The consulate described Tshombé's white allies as increasingly effective as snipers, troop commanders, and drivers of armored vehicles. [Local Europeans-- apparently led by the Belgian consul general--are regarded by the consulate as even more emotional than UN officials. The consulate has characterized the Belgians as threatening anyone not supporting them, and reports the consulate has been under heavy pressure to join other Western missions in a denunciation of UN "atrocities."] (b)(3)

Hammaraskjold has canceled a press conference which was to have been held shortly after his arrival in Leopoldville on 13 September. His statements to foreign diplomats, in New York and Leopoldville, have cited various bases for the UN action in Katanga. The British ambassador in Leopoldville, in a 14 September meeting with Hammaraskjold, advised him that if the UN was not able to justify its actions, Britain would reconsider its financial support of the UN operation. (b)(3)

The US Embassy in Leopoldville has received unconfirmed reports that a military revolt has broken out at Inongo, where a Congo Army battalion is stationed. The embassy adds that isolated tribal clashes occurred in Leopoldville on the night of 13-14 September, and that politically conscious youth groups had become more active.

Foreign reaction to the events in Katanga has been strongest in Western Europe, where criticism of the UN has been intense both in official and unofficial circles. In a conversation with Ambassador MacArthur, Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak-- in a "cold and bitter mood"--denounced Hammaraskjold on 14 September as a "liar" who "could not be trusted." Spaak said that if the Congolese Government closes Brussels' Congo mission, Belgium will terminate all economic and technical aid to the Congo and withdraw all its technicians. (b)(3)

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DAILY BRIEF

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