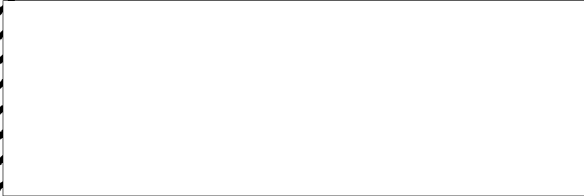


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13 February 1961



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CENTRAL

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

13 February 1961

DAILY BRIEF

Congo: Hammarskjold stated on 10 February that if Lumumba is dead--which appears increasingly likely--the UN must temporarily take over in the Congo. He has in mind the placement of airports and all other transport facilities under UN control, the establishment of a protective guard for all Congolese political personalities, and more drastic steps to protect Belgians from reprisals by Lumumba's supporters. Hammarskjold said he would justify this action to the Security Council as a necessary emergency measure and ask the Council for a new mandate to cover the situation.

The uncertainty regarding Lumumba has apparently interrupted at least some of the efforts which had been under way at the UN to formulate a new Security Council resolution aimed at promoting a Congolese settlement. [redacted]

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[redacted] on 10 February that a meeting [redacted] with representatives of the neutralist African states was unable to decide what to do in view of the news about Lumumba. The Security Council meeting scheduled for 13 February seems certain to focus mainly on the question of Lumumba's disappearance, with the USSR calling for immediate UN action to establish the facts and for the immediate release of Lumumba if still alive. [redacted]

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The Congo Situation

Although proof is still lacking, the conviction is growing among observers in the Congo that Lumumba and his two fellow prisoners are already dead and that the story of their escape is a fabrication developed by Tshombé's Katanga regime in anticipation of a UN move to force the release of all political prisoners. Leopoldville's newly designated Premier Ileo reportedly confirmed Lumumba's death on 11 February, while a former Congolese official is said to be claiming to have witnessed the execution of the three prisoners following their transfer to Katanga in mid-January. A high-level Belgian officer serving with the Katanga forces is also reported to have stated that Lumumba is dead and that he knew the identity of the person who executed him. The Katanga government is officially still pressing a search for Lumumba, but [redacted] no Katanga official appears really concerned over the alleged escape. [redacted] a growing belief that Lumumba will never be found.

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Tshombé's regime has cast further suspicion upon itself by indicating it would refuse to cooperate with the mission of inquiry sent to Elisabethville by the UN Command. Tshombé told newsmen on 12 February that the "escape" is "a strictly internal affair and the UN has nothing to do with it."

[redacted] Soviet UN delegate Zorin expressed his skepticism over reports of Lumumba's escape and said the situation in the Congo would become "uncontrollable" if he had indeed been killed. In the Security Council meeting on 13 February Zorin may exploit any discussion of Lumumba's fate as further proof of Moscow's charge that Hammarskjold has proved himself untrustworthy and incapable of discharging the Security Council's mandate for the Congo. [redacted]

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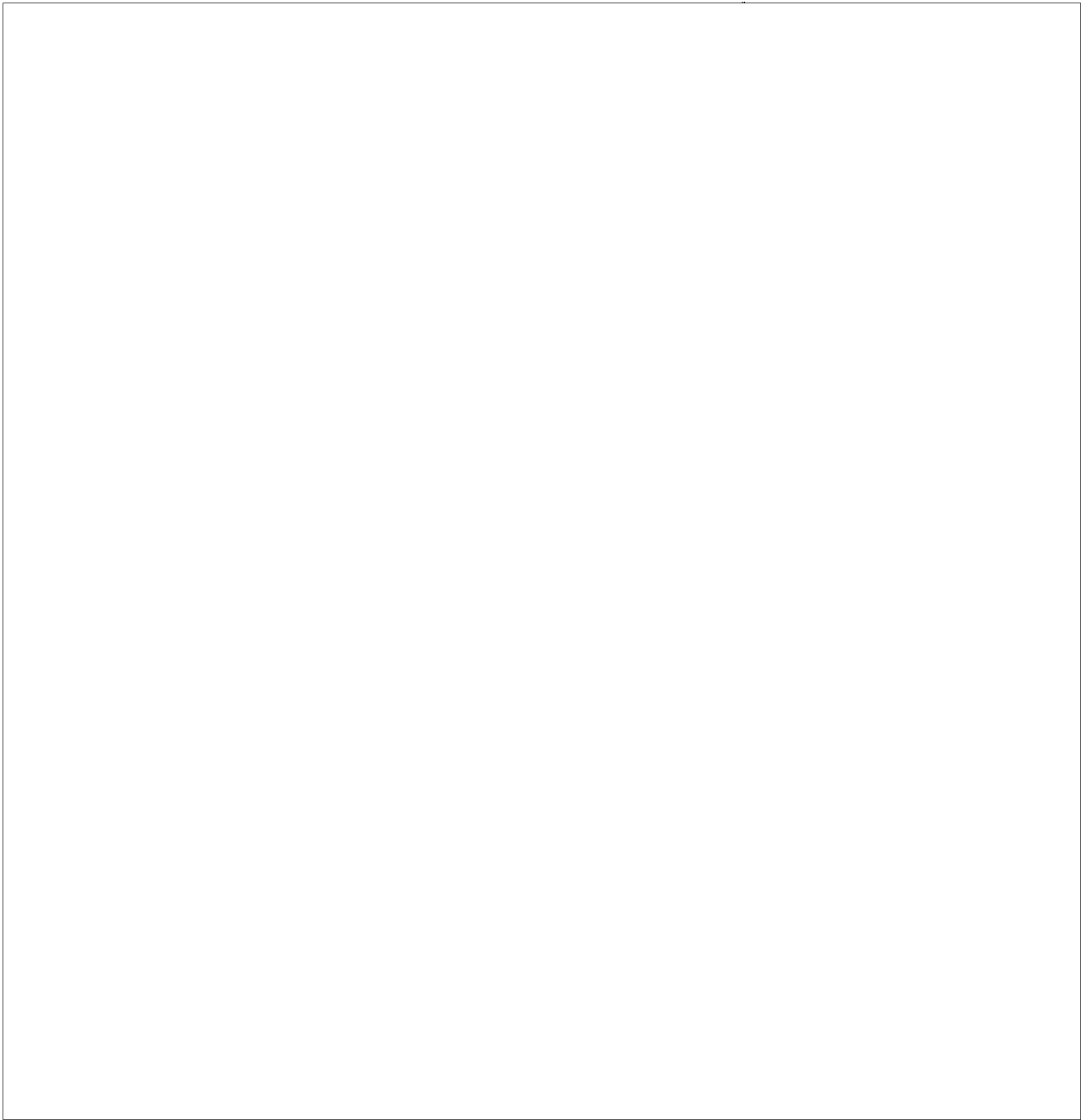
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