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Tshombe, Moise
CIA 4 Congo

U.S. Officials Speak Up to Aid Tshombe

Washington, July 28 (AP)—
The United States is quietly advising the government of the Congo that it would be a great mistake to execute Moise Tshombe, should he be extradited from Algeria.

This counsel of restraint is being given through diplomatic channels. American officials would not discuss it but acknowledged — reluctantly and without details — that such efforts have been made.

Officials had been reserved in commenting on the still mysterious hijacking of the former Congolese premier's private plane over the Mediterranean July 1 and his landing in Algeria. The only comment from the State Department's spokesman was that the U. S. government could not "condone kidnapping."

Tshombe was sentenced to death in absentia for treason by a Congolese court. Though treason is a political crime and those accused of such crimes are usually not extradited, the Algerian Court decided he should be handed over to the Congo.