

NSC BRIEFING

24 August 1960

CONGO

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- I. Lumumba's recent volte-face in his relations with UN, when he dropped or modified his anti-UN charges, probably stemmed from realization of his growing isolation from other African states.
 - A. Even Ghana had dissociated itself from his extreme position.
 - B. Soviets, at 21 August Security Council meeting, withdrew their anti-Hammarskjold resolution, being unwilling to push it to vote in absence of Afro-Asian support.
 1. Resolution (to set up consultative body on UN activities in Congo) was part of Soviet effort to establish record of support for Lumumba.
 2. Soviet officials, in close contact with Congo government, can be expected to encourage Lumumba to further anti-UN and anti-West moves which might draw substantial support from African states.
- II. Despite the setback in UN, Lumumba is rolling with punch and probably will try to return to offensive.
 - A. His next issue may be provided by Belgium's insistence that complete relinquishment of its bases must await formal negotiations with Congo government.
 1. Although Belgians have set 30 August as date for completion of their troop withdrawal from Congo bases, they plan to retain Belgian "presence" in form of "technicians."

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B. Lumumba probably realizes now he cannot get UN command to coerce Katanga into retracting its secession, and his next step here may be intensive drive to develop Congo army, both as internal security force and as means with which to threaten Tshombé.

- 1. Moroccan General Kettani (now in Congo with UN) has agreed to Congo request that he take charge of training Congo army.
- 2. Airlifting of Congolese soldiers to Kasai province on 23 August appears designed more to forestall another split (southern half of province might join Katanga in "secession") than, as was announced, to curb tribal warfare.

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C. Lumumba's flirting with Bloc may increase.

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- 2. Soviet vessel Arkhangelsk, arrived at Matadi on 22 August with 100 trucks and unknown number of technicians.
- 3. Congo expected to ask for and receive Czech teachers for secondary schools.

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III. Meanwhile, however, opposition to Lumumba in Congo continues to coalesce, attempting to coordinate activities.

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- A. Although Lumumba has Abako chief (and Congo President) Kasavubu in his pocket, other Abako officials both in Elisabethville and Leopoldville have reopened attacks on him, and this week in Katanga Lumumba's main opponents have been holding joint discussions on means of getting rid of him.
- B. Congo being tribal-based society, confederation concept espoused by Abako and Tshombé government possibly gaining adherents throughout country, and at least is providing rallying point for Lumumba opponents.
- C. In Leopoldville, the Senate--which has demanded release of anti-Lumumba legislator who arrested despite his parliamentary immunity--continues a center of anti-Lumumba sentiment and might attempt vote of no confidence.
 - 1. But legal overthrow of government made difficult by requirement for 48-hour waiting period before any vote taken on no-confidence motion; the interval would give Lumumba time to block quorum through use of police.

IV. New complication in Congo picture is status and actions of 566-man Mali UN contingent in northern Katanga.

- A. Status and allegiance clouded by Senegal-Soudan split.
- B. Also conflicting reports that contingent, or part of it, has become involved in local fighting apparently stemming from activities by pro-Lumumba, anti-Tshombé tribesmen.
 - 1. Should tribal violence spread, position of Tshombé government would be badly undermined.

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C. But recent press reports of "mutiny" in Mali UN contingent apparently erroneous

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