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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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CONGO

UN troops over the past week detained for repatriation approximately 500 Europeans, most of them Belgians serving in the Katangan armed forces. The evacuation of mercenaries is part of a stepped-up UN campaign to force Tshombé to drop his claims of Katangan independence and to enter into negotiations with Premier Adoula aimed at reintegrating Katanga with the Congo.

The UN move began on 25 August with the airlifting of a battalion of Indian troops from northern Katanga to Elisabethville. The airlift immediately triggered rumors that the UN, in support of Adoula, would attempt to disarm Katanga's 10,000-man army and 3,000-odd police. On 26 August, UN representative O'Brien delivered a virtual ultimatum to Tshombé, warning that if he did not go to Leopoldville the "situation would worsen," and emphasizing that the UN was prepared to assist Adoula in military action against Katanga. Tshombé replied that he would not negotiate with Leopoldville under pressure.

In a swift predawn maneuver on 28 August, Indian troops seized key points in Elisabethville and began the roundup of Belgians. Although Tshombé announced that he accepted the UN action and urged the populace to remain calm, the UN placed Interior Minister Munongo under detention, apparently as a precautionary measure. On 29 August the UN announced that most of the 500 white officers

of Tshombé's army were "controlled" by the UN, and O'Brien observed, "Katanga is in secession without the means of maintaining it."

Tshombé replied on 29 August that he had toured military camps in the past 24 hours and that "the army will not mutiny." A major disciplinary breakdown, however, might well lead to the collapse of his government. Even prior to the UN roundup there were periodic reflections of poor discipline and morale in army camps near Elisabethville. The Belgian consul general has stated that, as early as 28 August, there were several "incidents" between African soldiers and whites.

Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak has sent Secretary General Hammarskjöld an "energetic" protest over the UN measures against Belgian officers in Katanga. Initially he had indicated that his government would continue to cooperate with the UN and would remove Belgian officers from Katanga, provided such measures did not lead either to a panicky exodus of the European population or to a mutiny of the Katangan armed forces. However, the drastic action of the UN in taking Belgian officers into custody prompted the protest move. Spaak fears that large-scale humiliation of Belgian nationals would be exploited to the fullest by his right-wing critics at home.

In the Congo proper, attention has centered on the uncertain relationship between Adoula and Gizenga and on maneuverings

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concerning Congolese attendance at the Belgrade conference of uncommitted nations. Although Gizenga is believed to favor Congolese participation in the conference, his main preoccupation appears to be with securing agreement to various conditions he laid down for his support of the new government. In the meantime, he has refused to go to Leopoldville to take up his vice premiership.

A fifth Air Jordan charter flight to Stanleyville arrived on 26 August, reportedly carrying food, clothing, and six passengers. Unlike previous occasions, however, the cargo

was inspected by UN officials. When a US consul attempted to contact the plane's American pilot, he was threatened at the airport by Gizengist soldiers, who apparently blamed him for the UN's detention of the aircraft. The consul was placed under UN protection, and subsequently returned to Leopoldville after being "expelled" from Stanleyville on Gizenga's orders.

Jordanian King Husayn has indicated concern over the Stanleyville flight and has ordered the grounding of all Air Jordan aircraft pending the outcome of a court of inquiry.

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