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REPORT OF THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION
IN THE CONGO TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING
TO THE APPLICATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS OF
21 FEBRUARY AND 24 NOVEMBER 1961

Note by the Secretary-General

The reply of ONUC to the letter from Mr. Tshombe referred to in the report of the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in the Congo (S/5053/Add.3, paragraph 8) was delivered to Mr. Tshombe on 30 January 1962. The text of this reply is given below.

Letter dated 30 January 1962 from the Officer-in-Charge of the
United Nations Operation in the Congo, addressed to the President
of the Province of Katanga

I have the honour to inform you that your letter of 26 January about the problem of the mercenaries, which you delivered to our representative at Elisabethville for transmission to the Secretary-General, was immediately transmitted to the latter.

The United Nations has noted with satisfaction your official statement that the Katangese authorities are determined to expel all the mercenaries in Katanga and are prepared to take concrete and final measures to complete this operation without further delay.

With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter, I should be glad if, upon receipt of this reply, you would arrange to transmit to me a list of all the mercenaries who have been in Katanga and of those who are still there.

With regard to the time-limit of one month you propose for the complete elimination of the mercenaries, I must once again draw your attention to the urgency and importance attached to this operation by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The United Nations officials who reported

on their discussions with you on this problem understood that you yourself were very anxious to settle this problem as quickly as possible in close co-operation with ONUC. Accordingly, the United Nations considers that the elimination of the mercenaries should be undertaken immediately and should not be subject to the time-limit mentioned in your letter.

The United Nations notes with interest your proposal that a joint commission should be set up to ensure that this operation is carried out. The United Nations agrees to the idea of one or more joint commissions, which would have free access to all places to which they might wish to go. Nevertheless, I wish to emphasize the fact that it is for the United Nations to decide who shall represent it on this commission or these commissions and in particular to decide whether its representatives should be civilian or military. If military representatives of ONUC are appointed to serve on the commission or commissions, they will have to remain in uniform while performing their duties.

