

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4688/Add.1
13 February 1961
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

REPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE CONGO REGARDING MR. PATRICE LUMUMBA

After the publication of document S/4688, the following statement made on 13 February 1961 by Mr. Munongo, Minister of the Interior of the Katanga Provincial Government, was transmitted to the Secretary-General by his Special Representative in the Congo.

"Gentlemen!

"I have called you here to announce the death of Lumumba and of his accomplices Okito and Mpolo.

"Yesterday evening a Katangan from the Kolvezi region (I shall not be more explicit) came to my private residence to inform me that Lumumba, Okito and Mpolo had been massacred yesterday morning by the inhabitants of a small village situated quite a distance from the place where the vehicle had been discovered, so that we are still wondering how the three fugitives could have got there.

"On receiving this news I at once informed President Tshombe and the principal authorities of the country.

"We flew to the spot this morning, the party consisting of a number of persons capable of identifying the three bodies, Minister Kibwe, Minister Kitenge and myself. We were accompanied by a doctor who was to make out a death certificate if the bodies did in fact prove to be those of Lumumba, Okito and Mpolo.

"They were identified beyond any possibility of doubt and their death was certified. The bodies were immediately buried in a place which we shall not reveal, if only to prevent any pilgrimages being made to it.

"Nor shall we disclose the name of the village which put an end to the sorry exploits of Lumumba and his accomplices, for we do not want these Katangans, the name of whose tribe will not even be revealed, to be the object of possible reprisals on the part of Lumumba supporters.

"Nor do we wish to be exposed to pressure to make us bring to trial for murder these Katangans who have perhaps acted somewhat precipitately (which is excusable in view of the fact that they believed the fugitives to be armed), but whom we cannot honestly blame for having rid Katanga, the Congo, Africa and the world of a problem which some persons had unduly magnified and which threatened to be a source of trouble to mankind.

"This village will receive the 40,000 francs reward promised by the Council of Ministers. I shall tell you nothing more about the circumstances of the fugitives' death. I should be lying if I said that Lumumba's death grieves me. You know how I feel about him: he is an ordinary criminal who is responsible for thousands of deaths in Katanga and tens of thousands in Kasai, not to mention

the persecutions and exterminations in Oriental Province and Kivu. Mr. Hammarskjold himself had said that the action against the Baluba of Kasai was nothing less than genocide. It is because of that that I am sure what the outcome of Lumumba's trial would have been: he would have been sentenced to death. Nevertheless, I should have preferred Lumumba and his accomplices to have been brought to trial. They have only themselves to blame: all they had to do was not to escape in such a strongly pro-Government region at a time when their own friends in the United Nations had whipped up the Katangan peoples to fever-pitch. I am of course aware that the United Nations will say that the whole thing was a plot and that we murdered them ourselves. Such an accusation is inevitable. If Lumumba had died in Katanga of sickness, old age or some other natural cause, we should still have been charged with murder, solely because the death occurred in Katanga. I am going to speak frankly and bluntly, as I usually do. We shall be accused of having murdered them. My reply is: prove it. To demonstrate our good faith, we have placed no obstacles in the way of the journalists' mission.

"I also expect the friends of the communist Lumumba to raise the question of the death of the three fugitives in the United Nations Security Council.

"Even if we had executed them (which is categorically denied and in no way proved) I refuse in advance to recognize any right on the part of the United Nations to take a position on this question.

"I shall here recall the cases of Sacco and Vanzetti, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and even Caryl Chessman in the United States. I have no wish to compare them to Lumumba and his accomplices, nor to pass on their guilt or innocence. I wish merely to recall that in these famous trials public opinion throughout the world and the highest religious authorities interceded tirelessly for the condemned persons. But in vain. The United States ignored them, considering the matter to be within its exclusive jurisdiction.

"There are some who would deny us this right solely because we are black and a young nation.

"The young nations of Africa, among others, would not understand such a flagrant disregard of the sovereignty of another African nation.

/...

"I shall quote other examples, more striking still.

"Has the United Nations ever inquired into the fate of the opposition leaders who are periodically executed in one South American country or another? Was it distressed at the death of King Faisal of Iraq? What has it done to protect the tens of thousands of Baluba exterminated by Lumumba's followers in Kasai? Has it opened an inquiry into the poisoning of the Camerounian leader Moumié in Switzerland? Did the defunct League of Nations and the United Nations concern themselves with the fate of the millions of Russians exterminated in the concentration camps of the USSR? What has the United Nations done to protect the life of the brave General Maleter or that of Imre Nagy, the standard-bearer of the Hungarian patriots? Did not the Allies, who established the United Nations, calmly abandon their companion in arms, General Mihailovic, executed by his rival Tito?

"This enumeration could be continued indefinitely. What I have said is enough to strike shame into the United Nations, which prudently lies low whenever a Power is involved and seeks to exercise its alleged authority only when dealing with a weaker country.

"Let the United Nations keep before its eyes the image of Mihailovic, of Maleter, of Imre Nagy and of so many others whenever it wishes to raise a hypocritically virtuous clamour about individuals who, unlike the majority of those I mentioned just now, are not even worth the trouble."

