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REPORT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN KATANGA FROM THE  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. I wish to report a serious civil war situation which has already developed in the Katanga Province with evidence of similar impending developments in other parts of the country as well.
2. The authorities in Katanga have for some months past been engaged in building up their forces; they have been purchasing planes capable of small aerial raids, obtaining arms and ammunition as well as military trucks and vehicles. As a result of internal and external recruiting campaigns, the Katanga authorities have now at their disposal a force estimated at some 5,000 men, which is well equipped and strengthened by non-Congolese officers and sub-officers now estimated to be some 400 strong.
3. In recent weeks, and in particular on 11 February 1961, Mr. Tshombe has made statements in which he has referred to the United Nations as the greatest enemy. These threats have been accompanied by demands for the withdrawal of United Nations Moroccan troops stationed in Katanga Province.
4. Although the United Nations established in the middle of October, in agreement with the Katanga authorities, a neutral zone in northern Katanga with a view to its pacification, this agreement has been unilaterally abrogated by them on the grounds that ANC units owing allegiance to non-Katanga authorities had penetrated into northern Katanga, north of the neutralized zone, although this was through areas held by the Katanga gendarmerie. The United Nations has not accepted this abrogation. It should be noted also that since October the United Nations has continued its effort to pacify northern Katanga with the assistance of local leaders and has persistently tried to bring about political pacts between the Baluba leaders and the Katanga authorities. In spite of these continued negotiations, the Katanga authorities have now embarked on an offensive military action against the population of northern Katanga. On the morning of 11 February,

a force of 300 to 400 Katangese gendarmerie with automatic weapons, in 60 trucks under command of Colonel Crevecoeur, attacked the village of Mukulakulu, between Lubudi and Luena. The number of casualties is still unknown. The village has been completely burnt and the inhabitants have fled. After the operation, the gendarmerie continued towards Luena, burning all villages en route. Another column of some 300 gendarmerie are proceeding from Kabondo Dianda to the same area. There are reported to be at least 2,000 gendarmerie in the area of Lupudibukama and they have declared an area of ten kilometres on each side of the railway to be a military zone under gendarmerie occupation. The majority of the Baluba in the area have been forced to fly into the bush.

5. The Katangese authorities issued a statement on the military operations on 11 February, which is annexed hereto.

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Annex

Text of a statement released to the press on 11 February 1961 by  
the Katanga authorities

"Facing the incapacity more and more flagrant of the UN forces to establish order and to stop the continuous excursions of Baluba rebels in the region of Mukula-Kulu and Luena, the Katanga Government decided to take over again the initiative and its freedom of action. The latest attempts made by UNO to obtain an agreement with the Baluba leaders to re-establish the railroad traffic having failed, the government has given the order to the Katanga forces to start moving. The armed forces of Katanga consequently have started a vast operation of disconnecting main routes and railroad from Lubudi to Luena. In this last locality, as we know, our troops are encircled and subjected to fire by arms having become most accurate since several months. A task group of Katanga forces composed of elements of 4 battalions comprising troops of mobile infantry, mobile groups with armoured jeeps. A detachment of combat specialists of communication troops, logistic units and transport and a rear base have been positioned in Lubudi. A rear base have been positioned in Lubudi. A great concentrated action has started on February 10th in the evening by the occupation of the bridge situated on the north Kalule. The Katanga forces have then attacked the rebel concentration in the morning of 11th February 61. Liberating the route of Mukula-Kulu and dispersing the enemy elements which took flight in disorder leaving several wounded behind. Numerous arms and ammunition have been recovered notably grenades. Finding only but a weak resistance the Katanga troops took over Mukula-Kulu by the end of morning. The locality of Cartel. Now, the occupation and the cleaning up of the surroundings of Mukula-Kulu is continuing with success. The operation has been led with a maximum of efficiency and speed. This conveys the exemplary discipline shown by all the Katanga troops during the action. The morale of all the participants is excellent and has contributed greatly to the success. The Katanga forces have received extremely efficient aerial assistance by helicopters and light observation planes. In spite of unfavourable weather their efficiency has been remarkably revealed for the aerial observation as for the evacuation of the wounded. The rear base assured in a perfect way the supply of troops of food and ammunitions. No doubt that final success will crown the efforts of the valiant soldiers of the Katanga forces."

