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REPORT OF THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN THE CONGO TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH A-2 OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 21 FEBRUARY 1961

Report of the Officer-In-Charge of the United Nations Operation
in the Congo concerning the situation in Elisabethville (Part IV)

(A) Arrangements for talks with Mr. Tshombe

1. On 15 December 1961, the President of the United States of America received from Mr. Tshombe a cable indicating that the latter desired to negotiate with Prime Minister Adoula the various aspects of the Congo problem. President Kennedy at once got in touch with the Acting Secretary-General and Prime Minister Adoula. The Acting Secretary-General decided to make available Dr. Ralph Bunche and Mr. Robert Gardiner, both then in Leopoldville on missions from United Nations Headquarters, to participate in the talks on behalf of the United Nations. President Kennedy immediately sent a third-person message to Mr. Tshombe informing him of the Acting Secretary-General's decision, and designating the United States Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) to act for the President in facilitating rapid arrangements for the talks. The suggested place of meeting was Kitona, a former Belgian military base near the mouth of the Congo River, which is occupied by ONUC.^{1/}

2. The United Nations decided that, although there would be no cease-fire agreement, United Nations Forces in Katanga would not open fire, unless they were fired on, as from the time that Mr. Tshombe was airborne at Ndola en route for Kitona and for the duration of his talks with Mr. Adoula. The ONUC troops would not, however, halt non-offensive movements from post to post or in the air. This intention was communicated to Mr. Tshombe.^{2/}

^{1/} See also S/5038, para. 1.

^{2/} Ibid., para. 2. Document S/5038 contains an account of the negotiations at Kitona and the text of the agreement reached there.

3. In reply to a question by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Leopoldville, the Officer-in-charge of ONUC repeated the assurances given to Mr. Tshombe on 6 October 1961 concerning full and complete protection and safety for himself and his emissaries if they participated in negotiations with the Central Government of the Congo.

(B) Events in Elisabethville after the departure of Mr. Tshombe

4. Early in the morning of 18 December the United States Ambassador to the Congo flew from Leopoldville to Ndola in Rhodesia (about three to four hours' drive from Elisabethville) and there awaited Mr. Tshombe. Mr. Tshombe, however, left Elisabethville only at 1630 hours. This meant that he could not fly from Ndola to Kitona on the 18th, since it is difficult for planes to land at Kitona after dark.

5. There was heavy mortar fire from the Katanga forces in the Union Minière area just as Mr. Tshombe was leaving. Nevertheless the ONUC forces held fire not only in the direction of Mr. Tshombe's exit route, but also in all other directions, from 1615 to 1645 hours. Thereafter they were obliged to resume fire on the Union Minière area in self-defence, as they were being fired upon from a slag heap, from industrial buildings, from private houses and from the church tower, all within the Union Minière area. In addition, two machine guns continued to fire on the Ethiopians from the Union Minière hospital, in spite of a protest made through the Red Cross twenty-four hours before.

6. It became evident that the Union Minière buildings were being held mainly by a hard core of non-African extremists and of mercenaries, including the group of French origin who call themselves "les affreux". The interests of that group run entirely counter to any cessation of hostilities, as the past activities of many of them make them anxious to avoid coming within the reach of criminal justice. The management of Union Minière protested at United Nations defensive action on their property, but did not prevent murderous attacks from being made against the ONUC personnel from the premises.

7. During the night ONUC Ethiopian troops again came under heavy mortar fire from the area of Union Minière installations. As the United Nations could not go on incurring casualties, Ethiopian troops on the early morning of 19 December occupied the area of the Union Minière factory and its slag heap. In so doing

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they captured a 40 millimetre Bofors anti-aircraft gun, and later a large quantity of small arms ammunition. It was discovered that there had been two Katangese military camps in the Union Minière area. One Ethiopian was wounded.

8. Mr. Tshombe boarded the plane at Ndola and left for Kitona at 0800 hours on 19 December, and ONUC troops held their fire from 0700 hours. Nevertheless, they again came under heavy attack from Katangese mortars and from an armoured vehicle. Two more Ethiopians were wounded. It was therefore finally necessary for the ONUC troops to resume firing in order to silence the fire against them. When the attack ceased, the Ethiopians likewise ceased firing.

9. The Ethiopians in the Lido and Union Minière areas were again attacked with mortars and small arms at 1530 hours in the afternoon. At the same time sniping from private houses began against ONUC Headquarters in Elisabethville. One Katangese gendarme was killed by answering fire from ONUC.

10. Elsewhere in the environs of the town, Baluba refugees were prevented with great difficulty by Swedish troops from moving toward Elisabethville. Nevertheless a few refugees were seen raiding houses and collecting arms and ammunition.

11. Some time before the 19th, ONUC troops, who had entered a house from which they were being fired on, discovered an elaborate map of Elisabethville, showing an ingenious plan for depriving United Nations forces of freedom of movement. A number of houses in the residential districts were marked with green pins, and for each such pin there was a small inset map showing the method of unobserved access to the house. Other houses marked on the map were almost certainly used as observation posts. There were three blue pins on the map, one in the main office building of Union Minière, one in the Union Minière mess, and one in the centre of the principal cluster of green pins in the vicinity of ONUC Headquarters. On 19 December ONUC personnel visited a number of the houses marked on the map, and found that most of them contained arms, ammunition or other signs that they had been used as firing positions against ONUC.
