

## UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLYDistr.  
GENERALA/4951  
1 November 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session

CABLE DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1961 FROM THE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We have become increasingly disturbed at the recent deterioration of events in the Congo. At the request of the Central Government, United Nations forces are present in the Congo to assist in the eviction of Belgian and other mercenaries in the service of the Katanga secessionists and to aid the Central Government to reintegrate Katanga into the Congo and restore peace to this strife-torn nation.. The Katanga authorities have unfortunately resisted integration both by deceit and by force. The United Nations initially by peaceful means, and subsequently prior to the untimely death of the late United Nations Secretary-General by force, endeavoured to ensure the reintegration of Katanga. Failing in this, a temporary cease-fire was entered into between the United Nations forces and the Katanga secessionist authorities. Recently, the Katanga forces have received further reinforcements from certain colonialist Powers and in the face of this military build-up the Central Government itself mobilized its forces to carry out a police action to achieve by armed strength what has been impossible through peaceful negotiations. Today the Central Government forces and the Katanga mercenaries have clashed in combat. We regard the present situation as highly critical and we are convinced that in order to put an end to hostilities, to ensure the integration of Katanga into the Congolese nation and to guarantee the reign of peace in the Congo, the Security Council must take prompt and decisive action. Clear and unequivocal directives must be given to the United Nations forces so that their duties and responsibilities will be clear beyond question. The Security Council must also demand that all Member States bring the utmost pressure to bear on those colonialist nations which continue to support the Katanga secession. Unless these measures are taken, we fear that sixteen months of United Nations action in the Congo may end in failure and deal a telling blow to the power and prestige of this Organization.

Haile Selassie  
Emperor

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