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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1960 FROM FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the statement I made to you today, upon the instructions of the Soviet Government, on the subject of the plan proposed by you for a United Nations Civilian Operation in the Congo.

I would ask you to circulate this text as an official Security Council document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) V. KUZNETSOV
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the USSR

In the opinion of the Government of the USSR, the plan for a "United Nations Civilian Operation in the Republic of the Congo" contained in the Memorandum issued by the Secretary-General on 12 August 1960, which envisages the establishment in the Congo of a United Nations administration with wide powers, independent of the Government of the Congo, is entirely unacceptable.

The plan provides for the setting up of a Consultative Group under the Chief of the United Nations civilian activities in the Congo, which will have broad powers and will not be responsible to the Government of the Congo. This means the limitation of the sovereignty of the Republic of the Congo and, in effect, the placing of the Congo in the position of a Trust Territory, which is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations.

The Memorandum enumerates such important spheres of activity as natural resources and industry, agriculture, finance, foreign trade, instruction (national security forces) and others. It provides that each of the consultants in the Group will have "his own and specific administrative responsibility for all activities within the range of his expertise". It is proposed that these experts should be given "a new and so far untried status". In essence this means that these experts will possess the powers of ministers and will determine the future policy of the Congo and the direction of its development. There is no doubt that in the present situation, in which citizens of the United States and of countries which are its allies constitute a majority of the staff members of the United Nations and occupy the most important posts in the Secretariat, the implementation of the proposed plan would mean that the development of the Congo would be conducted along lines satisfactory to the United States, and this might in fact not only jeopardize the independence of the Republic of the Congo but also create a dangerous precedent for the future.

The recruitment of these experts is being carried out in violation of the principle of an equitable geographical distribution and without regard to the size of States' contributions to the United Nations budget. Thus, according to information given by the United Nations Secretariat, on 15 August, of the sixty-five experts being used in the United Nations Civilian Operation in the Congo, twenty-one represent the United States and the countries participating in the various military and political groups headed by it. It is characteristic also

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that they are occupying posts which are of key significance for the economy and indeed the entire life of that country..

At the same time not one of the sixty-five experts comes from an East European country.

The overwhelming majority of the experts from Africa (twenty-four of the twenty-eight) are occupying secondary posts. Asia and the Far East are represented by one expert from New Zealand which, as you know, is a member of the SEATO and ANZUS military blocs.

The plan for a United Nations Civilian Operation in the Congo is contrary to the basic principles of the United Nations Charter, which does not give the Organization the right to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a State.

Nor is this plan in accordance with the Security Council resolutions on the Congo of 14 and 22 July and 9 August 1960, which provide only for the rendering of assistance to the Government of the Congo.

The United Nations can provide the Republic of the Congo with technical and economic assistance only in the form in which it has been and is being given to other under-developed countries. This means that the experts sent to the Republic of the Congo through the United Nations must be sent with the prior agreement of the Government of the Congo and that they must be guided in their activities by the instructions of that Government.

Thus, the implementation of the plan proposed by the Secretary-General would mean nothing other than the subordination of the future development of the independent Republic of the Congo to the interests of the group of Powers headed by the United States - would mean, in fact, the establishment of a new form of colonial enslavement of the Congolese people under cover of the United Nations flag.

For these reasons, the Soviet Government vigorously rejects this plan and will vote against its adoption.
