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CABLE DATED 20 AUGUST 1960 FROM MR. PATRICE LUMUMBA, PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council of Ministers met at Léopoldville today, 20 August, in order to examine the general situation in the country in the light of recent events. During this meeting, the Prime Minister read out a letter he addressed on 19 August 1960 to Mr. Ralph Bunche, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at Léopoldville, worded as follows:

"Mr. Ralph Bunche,  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General  
of the United Nations at Léopoldville

Sir:

I have the honour to request you, in accordance with Security Council resolution of 14 July 1960, kindly to place a United Nations aircraft and a military detachment at the disposal of the Government of the Republic in order to enable Mr. Remy Mwamba, Minister of Justice, Mr. Janson Sendwe, Commissioner of State for the Province of Katanga and Mr. Ambroise Mahunga, Deputy to the National Assembly, to proceed to Elisabethville. The departure is to take place on Sunday, 21 August. In order to avoid any incidents I should be grateful if you would give instructions for their protection against provocations on the part of the rebels.

Thanking you, I have the honour to be, etc."

To this request made by the Government in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 14 July 1960, under which the Secretary-General is to provide the Government of the Congo with such military assistance as may be necessary, the Special Representative replied in the negative, referring us to the following passage from the memorandum by Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld: "It further follows that United Nations facilities cannot be used, for example, to transport civilian or military representatives, under the authority of the Central Government, to Katanga against the decision of the Katanga provincial government." The Council of

Ministers considered that the Secretary-General's refusal to provide to the Government of the Republic the military assistance it needs, because the Katanga provincial government is opposed to this, constitutes not merely tacit recognition of the secession of the Congolese province of Katanga but a flagrant violation of the resolutions of the Security Council. The Secretary-General's interpretation is tantamount to saying that the United Nations will give no assistance to the Government of the Republic in restoring internal order and the integrity of the national territory, that being the very purpose for which the Government approached the United Nations. Faced with this personal position of the Secretary-General, the Government wonders what is the exact meaning of the Security Council resolution which reads: "The Security Council ... Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Congo, to provide the Government with such military assistance as may be necessary." The Government notes that not only does the Secretary-General refuse to provide it with the military assistance it has already required, but that he deliberately refuses to consult it, as stipulated in the resolution of 14 July 1960, with regard to any steps he deems it necessary to take. It must be stressed that all the incidents which have occurred between the Government of the Republic and the Secretary-General of the United Nations were precisely the result of the latter's refusal to consult the Government as he is formally recommended to do by the Security Council resolution of 14 July 1960. Until now everything has been done as if the United Nations Command in the Congo wanted to take the place of the Government of the Republic. Regardless of all the incidents which have occurred between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government, the latter confirms its complete confidence in the United Nations. The Government is convinced that the Secretary-General's interpretation as regards the implementation of the Security Council resolutions does not reflect either the ideas or the wishes of the Security Council. In conclusion, the Government of the Republic of the Congo:

1. Confirms its confidence in the work so far accomplished by the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and of friendship among peoples;
2. Requests the Security Council to recommend to the Secretary-General that he should make contact and conduct negotiations exclusively with the only legal Government of the Republic of the Congo;

3. Urges, with a view to avoiding further friction, that all United Nations action in the Congo should take place in exclusive, continuous and permanent collaboration with the Government and that the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Congo should regularly report to it on the activities of United Nations troops;
4. Confirms its decision, which it has communicated to the Secretary-General's Special Representative, that the policing of airports and seaports should be done by the national forces of the Republic;
5. Urges that, within the framework of military assistance furnished to it by the United Nations, aircraft should be placed at its disposal for the transport of Congolese [troops] to any part of the territory where their presence is deemed to be necessary;
6. Asks that the weapons and ammunition distributed by the Belgians to the supporters of Tshombe for the purpose of provoking civil war should be seized immediately;
7. Deplores the murders and shootings of hundreds of innocent persons in Katanga who heroically resisted the secession movement;
8. Urges the immediate and total withdrawal of all Belgian troops from the Congo, including the evacuation of the Kamina and Kitona bases, as the presence of these troops is a serious threat to peace.

Conclusion: The Government awaits with impatience and with confidence the latest resolutions of the Security Council, to which it transmits this note.