



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4497
10 September 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1960 FROM THE FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the
Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics regarding the situation
in the Congo.

I request you to circulate this text as a document of the Security Council.

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

STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE
SITUATION IN THE CONGO

The developments in the Republic of the Congo indicate that the conspiracy of the colonialists against the independence and integrity of this African State, against its people and lawful Government, is assuming an increasingly dangerous nature. Facts, in particular, facts that have emerged in recent days, prove incontrovertibly that the Belgian colonialists, their NATO allies, first and foremost the United States, and the Command of the troops sent to the Congo under the Security Council resolution, which has actually become the servitor of the colonialists, are acting in concert in an attempt to snuff out the freedom of the Congolese people. The flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of the Congo is really a direct mockery of the Security Council resolutions adopted to protect the independence and integrity of the Congo.

Those are the facts.

The imperialist Powers, utilizing traitors to the Congolese people of the Tshombe-Kalonji type, are following the policy of kindling the flames of civil war in the Republic of the Congo.

Before everybody's eyes the Congolese province of Katanga, seized by the henchmen of the colonialists, is being converted by Belgium with the support of its NATO allies into a military camp of forces hostile to the lawful Government of the Republic of the Congo. The Army of the Tshombe puppet government is being formed and equipped with the direct participation of Belgian interventionists. The entire Belgian male population is being mobilized in Katanga on orders from the Belgian Command, and detachments of "volunteers" are being created which include Belgian military in the guise of technical advisers. The anti-Government Kalonji bands active in Kasai Province are armed with Belgian weapons taken from NATO stores.

Belgian planes of the "Sabena" company, repainted in United Nations blue, are airlifting arms for the Tshombe bands.

During his stay in the Congo, the Secretary-General found it possible to visit Tshombe for negotiations without even notifying the lawful Government of the Congo. At Hammarskjold's order the Kamina military base in Katanga, just evacuated by the Belgians, was occupied by troops under the Command of the United Nations. Instead of being handed over to the Government of the Republic of the Congo, this base was occupied under the far-fetched pretext of its "neutralization".

/...

In spite of the fact that United Nations troops were sent to the Congo at the request of the Congolese Government and that the resolutions of the Security Council clearly indicated that they could be used only with the knowledge and consent of the Government of the Congo, this important provision is being systematically violated by the United Nations Command in the Congo and by Secretary-General Hammarskjold. The representatives of the United Nations in the Congo, far from helping, are in every way hindering the Government of the Congo in its efforts to restore order and normalcy in the country.

In the last few days the actions of the United Nations Command have been particularly unrestrained. By order of this Command, troops operating under the United Nations flag, occupied and cordoned off the airports of Leopoldville, the capital of the Republic, and other towns in the Congo, in spite of the resolute protests of the Government of the Congo. Matters went so far that the United Nations Command did not permit an aircraft carrying the commander of the National Army of the Congo to land at Leopoldville airport. It was stated that if the aircraft attempted to land it would be fired upon.

The outrageous colonialist behaviour of the representatives sent by Hammarskjold to the Congo really knows no limits. In spite of the Government's protests, troops of the United Nations Command occupied the central radio station of Leopoldville. Representatives of the country's lawful government have been barred from this radio station.

Furthermore, persons who call themselves representatives of the United Nations in the Congo have gone so far as to refuse to enter into negotiations with the Congolese Government, which has demanded the immediate evacuation of the airports and the radio station. Yet it is at the request of the Congolese Government that these representatives are on its soil.

The NATO countries, first and foremost the United States, together with the United Nations Command, which is in charge of the troops dispatched to the Congo in accordance with the Security Council resolution, but in actual fact being used to frustrate the Council's resolutions, are openly striving to discredit the lawful Government of the Republic of the Congo and its leader, Prime Minister Lumumba. Their policy is to encourage dissident anti-popular elements, who in order to curry favour with the colonialists are prepared to sacrifice the country's independence

/...

and to barter away its territory. They have also resorted to the perfidious trick of causing friction between the troops placed by a number of countries at the disposal of the United Nations Command and the Congolese Government troops.

What has in fact happened is that a coalition of colonialists has been formed, its aim being to use the African soldiers from Tunisia, Morocco, Ethiopia and Ghana to suppress this young African State - the Republic of the Congo.

The outrageous activities of the interventionist coalition reveal its true purpose. The whole of Africa, indeed the entire world, is now witnessing an attempt to replace one set of colonialists in the Congo by another, in the shape of the collective colonialism of the NATO countries, using the blue banner of the United Nations as a shield.

The Security Council has discussed the situation in the Congo time and time again, and has adopted sound and wise decisions designed to secure the independence and integrity of the Republic of the Congo, and to help the Congolese Government to restore the country to normal after the disruption caused by the colonialists. However, attempts are now being made to sabotage the implementation of these decisions, to cheat the nations and to use the troops placed by various States at the disposal of the United Nations Command in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Congo.

There is no doubt that most of the States which sent contingents to the Congo in response to the Security Council's resolution did so with the best of intentions, out of a desire to assist in the preservation of the freedom, independence and integrity of the Congolese State. Now that it is becoming increasingly clear that the present United Nations Command in the Congo is using these contingents of troops for entirely different purposes and is aiding and abetting the former oppressor of the Congo in his present task of undermining the independence of the country, it is the duty of those States which have sent troops to the Congo to see to it that the soldiers they have sent to help the country are actually used in accordance with the proper assignment given them, and are assisting the Government of the Republic of the Congo in consolidating the independence of the country, in full compliance with the Security Council's decisions. If the United Nations Command declines to comply with these decisions, they must be carried out without it.

/...

One can hardly help but be struck by the unseemly role assumed in regard to the Congo by United Nations Secretary-General Hammarskjold. It can properly be said that the events in the Congo and the part played by the United Nations representatives in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council were a serious test of the impartiality of the United Nations organism; and it must be said quite bluntly that the senior official of this organism - the Secretary-General - has failed to display the minimum of impartiality required of him in the situation which has arisen. In the over-all workings of the United Nations organism, its chief has proved to be the very component which is functioning most unashamedly on the side of the colonialists, thus compromising the United Nations in the eyes of the world.

In the light of the situation which has arisen in the Congo, the Soviet Government has instructed its representative in the Security Council to insist that a meeting of the Council be called immediately with a view to measures being taken without delay to put an end to all interference of whatever kind in the internal affairs of the Congo.

To this end it is essential first of all to evacuate the armed forces at the disposal of the United Nations Command from all airports held by the Command at present.

The national radio stations must be returned and placed completely and without restriction at the disposal of the Congolese Government.

The United Nations Command, which is using the troops dispatched to the Congo in accordance with the Security Council resolution for purposes other than those intended, must be withdrawn.

The lawful Government of the Republic of the Congo must be given the opportunity to exercise its sovereign rights and authority over the whole territory of the Congo without let or hindrance from the United Nations representatives.

The Soviet Government will press for all these things at the meeting of the Security Council, and it anticipates the support in its efforts of all States which cherish the cause of national independence and world security, and are loath to see the good name of the United Nations besmirched by shameful complicity with the colonialists.

/...

Should the Security Council, for whatever reason, find itself unable to discharge its duty, those States which respect the resolutions already adopted on assistance to the Congo must give all possible support in this time of crisis for the Congolese people to the lawful Government of the Republic of the Congo.

