

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4580
7 December 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

CABLE DATED 7 DECEMBER 1960 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (LEOPOLDVILLE) ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

MY LETTER OF TODAY'S DATE DEALS IN PASSING WITH THE PROBLEM CAUSED IN THE
COUNTRY BY THE FLIGHT OF MR. LUMUMBA AND BY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ONUC FOR THE
DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE RESULTED.

IN THIS CONNEXION, I WOULD REMIND YOU OF ALL THE NOTES AND CABLES OF PROTEST
SENT TO YOU WHEN THE LOCAL OFFICIALS OF ONUC DECIDED TO PROVIDE SUCH PROTECTION TO
MR. LUMUMBA AS VIRTUALLY TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE PROSECUTION LAWFULLY INITIATED
AGAINST HIM BY THE JUDICIARY. ALL THOSE REMONSTRATIONS HAVE PROVED FUTILE. THE
ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS MATTER HAS NOT REVEALED ANY DESIRE TO
UNDERSTAND THE POSITION OF THE CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES. IT HAS CREATED A VERY DEEP
RESENTMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TOWARDS THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS; THE
REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS OF 22 AND 23 NOVEMBER LAST WERE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND THE
MOST SERIOUS EVIDENCES OF THAT RESENTMENT.

IN VIEW OF ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ALTER ITS POSITION REGARDING THE PROTECTION
OF MR. LUMUMBA, THE UNITED NATIONS CANNOT NOW EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ESCAPE. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ONUC, WHICH PREVENTED THE
ARREST OF MR. LUMUMBA ON PRETEXTS TOTALLY DEVOID OF ANY LEGAL BASIS, NOT TO BE
CONCERNED WITH KEEPING HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AS IT IS NOW SAYING. IF THAT WAS
THE CASE, ITS CONDUCT CAN ONLY BE CONDEMNED AS UNILATERAL AND BIASED, FOR TO ADMIT
THAT IT COULD OBSTRUCT JUSTICE AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLOW AN ACCUSED PERSON UNDER
ITS PROTECTION TO CONTINUE HIS NEFARIOUS AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IS UNTHINKABLE.
I HOPE THAT THE ARREST OF MR. LUMUMBA IN KASAI IS NOW PERMANENTLY CLOSING A CHAPTER
IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS HAS CERTAINLY NOT HELPED TO RESTORE ORDER AND CALM IN
THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC. I VENTURE TO THINK THAT HENCEFORTH A CLEARED
CONCEPTION OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE CONGO WILL

S/4580
English
Page 2

PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SUCH SITUATIONS, AND THAT THE SYSTEM OF UNWARRANTED PROTECTION WILL BE ENDED FOR ALL TIME.

ONLY IN THAT WAY, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH FRUITFUL AND EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN ONUC AND THE CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES, A COLLABORATION WHICH EVERYONE HOPES WILL HAVE THE MOST BENEFICIAL EFFECTS.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE, ETC.

(Signed) JOSEPH KASA-VUBU
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO