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MEMORANDUM DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1960 FROM THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE CONGO ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Addendum No.2

The Secretary-General has received on 13 September 1960 a further report from his Special Representative in Leopoldville to the following effect:

In keeping with the policy, established in connexion with the assumption of responsibility for broadcasts by Parliament (S/4505/Add.1), that political leaders would be free to use the radio station provided that it would not be used for purposes contrary to peace and public order, on 13 September at 1215 hours, Mr. Balikongo arrived at the radio station to broadcast an address to the nation asking for national unity. He was accompanied by escort of three jeep loads and one large troop carrier of gendarmerie. During his broadcast, Mr. Lumumba's military aide appeared with about forty men. When questioned as to his purpose, he replied he had come to arrest Mr. Balikongo. Captain Danto, Ghana Liaison Officer, asked to see his warrant of arrest and told him that an arrest was impossible without a warrant. Mr. Lumumba's aide then agreed to go away and get a warrant, leaving his men with arms at the ready in the middle of the radio station. Mr. Balikongo then emerged from the studio with the intention of giving a press conference but was persuaded to leave at once while the situation was quiet and give a press conference later. Mr. Lumumba's party remains officerless in the radio station presumably awaiting arrest warrant. Thirty-five ANC men are now guarding the radio station and access to it armed with light and a few heavy machine guns.

On 14 September, a further report was received by the Secretary-General as follows:

At the radio station there was some confusion over the 5.0 to 8.0 a.m. normal broadcasting session due to the loss either by incompetence or design of the key to the studio. United Nations personnel stayed out of this and much mutual recrimination took place between the ANC guard at the radio station and the radio station staff. The guard now includes elements of the Leopoldville police. The mystery of the key was not cleared up and a locksmith has now broken open the door since the station was due to go on the air again at 11.00 hours. There was a further interruption due to a telephone call of unknown origin to the transmitter ordering it to be switched off. For some time no-one at the radio station wished to take responsibility for ordering it switched on again, but the Congolese engineer finally did this and the station is now on the air and playing music. It is known that Mr. Lumumba recorded a broadcast statement at 2145 hours last night. He has told correspondents this morning that the UN had ordered the transmitter switched off to obstruct him. A denial has of course been issued but so far his statement has not been broadcast.

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