

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4634
20 January 1961
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1961 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR

I enclose a statement by the USSR Delegation to the United Nations on the surrender to the Belgian colonialists, on 18 January 1961, of Mr. Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, and other leading Congolese statesmen.

I should be glad if you would take steps to have this statement issued as an official United Nations document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) V. ZORIN
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

18 January 1961

STATEMENT BY THE USSR DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON THE SURRENDER TO THE BELGIAN COLONIALISTS OF MR. PATRICE LUMUMBA,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, AND OTHER LEADING CONGOLESE
STATESMEN

It has just become known that Mr. Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, and two other leading Congolese statesmen - Mr. Joseph Okito, the President of the Senate and Mr. Maurice Mpolo, the Minister for Youth - who had been arbitrarily deprived of liberty by Mobutu's armed bands, have been transferred from the Leopoldville area, where they had been illegally held in custody, to a prison in the territory of Katanga Province. It has also become known that during this action the Head of the legal Government of the Congo and his two colleagues were mercilessly beaten and subjected to various humiliations.

These actions constitute yet another flagrant crime committed by the ringleaders of the present illegal regime in the Congo, and another open challenge on their part to the United Nations. In point of fact, the transfer of Mr. Lumumba, Mr. Okito and Mr. Mpolo to Katanga territory means nothing more nor less than their direct surrender to the Belgian colonialists; for in Katanga a Belgian occupation regime has been set up, and all decisions are in fact taken by the Belgian colonial administration and its creature Mr. Tshombe.

This new crime committed against the national leaders of the Congolese people once again reveals unmistakably the true aims of the Belgian colonialists, their NATO allies and their puppets. The surrender of Mr. Lumumba, Mr. Okito and Mr. Mpolo to the Belgians should leave not the slightest doubt in any quarter as to the nature of the present regime in the Congo, or as to the identity of those who actually stand at the back of this regime.

It is worthy of note that this new crime against the national leaders of the Congo was carried out almost immediately after the Security Council's consideration of the question of the revival of aggressive actions by Belgium against the Republic of the Congo - actions which are resolutely condemned by most countries

/...

of the world. Again and again the obvious fact is being made clear that Belgium, relying on the support of its NATO allies, intends to heed neither the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly nor world public opinion.

Like the arbitrary imprisonment of Mr. Lumumba and his colleagues, which took place as the result of an attack on them by Mobutu's gangs, the recent acts of violence committed against them were carried out before the eyes of the "United Nations Command" in the Congo. Thus, neither the "United Nations Command" nor the Secretary-General can divest themselves of responsibility for these acts organized for the benefit of the colonialists.

In view of these facts, the USSR Delegation to the United Nations made representations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 18 January and emphatically called upon him to take all necessary measures to secure the immediate liberation of Mr. Lumumba, Mr. Okito, and Mr. Mpolo and to ensure their personal safety.

