

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/4686
11 February 1961
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1961 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Sir,

I am sending herewith the statement of the delegation of the USSR to the United Nations, of 11 February 1961, in connexion with the reports concerning Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo.

I would ask you to arrange for this statement to be published 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

61-03892

/...

STATEMENT
OF THE DELEGATION OF THE USSR TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN CONNEXION WITH
THE REPORTS CONCERNING PATRICE LUMUMBA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO

In connexion with the widely disseminated reports of the killing of Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, the delegation of the USSR to the United Nations, in a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 10 February 1961, asked him to undertake the immediate verification of these reports, bearing in mind the serious international consequences of such an act, and the urgent presentation of information on the subject to the members of the Security Council. The pressing need for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take special steps in connexion with these reports was stressed also in the letter sent the same day to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the representatives of Ceylon, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

In view of the extremely critical nature of the situation which is now developing in the Congo, the delegation of the USSR proposed today, 11 February, the urgent convening of a closed meeting of the Security Council to discuss this situation. Unfortunately, however, as a result of the objections of a number of members of the Security Council, it proved impossible to arrange that discussion, although it is perfectly obvious that the inaction of the Security Council in present conditions merely plays into the hands of the Belgian and other colonialists who are endeavouring to cover the traces of the crimes committed by them in the Congo.

Bewilderment has, justifiably, been felt at the fact that up to the present time the members of the Security Council have still not received, from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Command in the Congo, information throwing light on the circumstances of Mr. Lumumba's unlawful detention under arrest, and giving a clear indication of his fate, although it was precisely on them that the Security Council, in its decisions, placed the responsibility for the maintenance of peace, law and order in the Congo, including the guaranteeing of the security of the members of the Government of the Republic of the Congo, among them the head of that Government.

All these facts cause serious concern to those Governments which are striving for a peaceful solution of the problem of the Congo in the interests of the Congolese people, and the elimination of one of the dangerous sources of international tension.

The Security Council must fulfil its duty and put an end to all the attempts of the colonialists to maintain their domination in the Congo, ensuring the peace, territorial integrity and independence of that young African Republic.

