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## REPORT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN KATANGA FROM THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

This is in continuation of my report of 13 February 1961 regarding the development of a civil war situation in Katanga. Reports received since and confirmed by General Iyassu, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Command, confirm that the operations are spreading beyond the railway zone, in a northerly direction. The methods employed in the conduct of the offensive against the local population, conform to those already reported. After burning Mukulakulu Village and putting population to flight, the attacking force of some 300-400 gendarmerie officered by Belgians, advanced in sixty trucks and occupied Luena from which the population had previously fled. An area of 10 kilometers on both sides of the railway between Lubudi and Luena was cleared and all villages along the railway line were burnt. The gendarmerie with some 400 men took over the protection and repair of the railway which had been cut in several places and at least two platoons were stationed in every village and a reinforced company was posted in Luena.

On 13 February, 600 gendarmerie in eighty trucks advanced from Luena on Sukama, while a second force of 200 gendarmerie augmented by 500 armed civilians advanced on Bukama from Kabondo-Dianda to the north west. The population of Bukama fled into the bush and the gendarmerie entered the town unopposed.

On 15 February small groups of Baluba returned to Luena and laid down their arms declaring that they wanted peace. On 16 February, Mr. Tshombe paid a visit to the gendarmerie at Luena. On 17 February fighting took place at Bukama between two companies of gendarmerie armed with 75 mm guns and four mortars, against Baluba tribesmen. On the same day Baluba tribesmen attacked the gendarmerie guard at Luena waterworks, seriously injuring one gendarme.

Luena is now without water or electricity. In pursuance of their offensive, the gendarmerie have secured the bridge at Djobo, midway between Mitwaba and Manono, and have repaired the road between Djobo and Kabundji-Djobo. A Belgian officer, Captain Protin, commanding the gendarmerie at Mitwaba, was encountered by a UN patrol on 17 February south of Djobo, who revealed that the intention of the gendarmerie was to capture Manono and that the UN force should not attempt to intervene as the operation was part of a larger offensive. Captain Protin further stated that he would not shoot at Baluba tribesmen unless obstruction or opposition is encountered, and refused to enter into discussions with the UN Commander in North Katanga.

The burning of villages continues although the loss of life has been limited by the flight of the population before the advancing columns. The Baluba are now reported to be taking defensive measures by erecting road blocks on the Djobo-Kabundji road, which are covered both by the Baluba and the Anc. It is thus clear that the offensive launched by Mr. Tshombe on 11 February is aimed, not merely at opening up the Lubudi-Luena railway, as he had declared, but the subjugation of the entire region populated by the Baluba tribe, by the use of overwhelming force, including the burning of villages and the elimination of all opposition and resistance and the terrorization of the population.

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