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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the murder of Patrice Lumumba, and would request you to arrange for it to be reproduced and circulated as a United Nations document.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) YORDAN TCHOBANOV

Permanent Representative of the  
People's Republic of Bulgaria

Statement by the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria expresses the deep indignation of the entire Bulgarian people at the atrocious murder of Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, and his associates, Joseph Okito, the President of the Senate, and Maurice Mpolo, the Minister for Defence. The Bulgarian people is shocked by this new and monstrous crime of the colonialists and their mercenaries in the Congo. The Bulgarian Government offers its sincere condolences to the families of Patrice Lumumba and his associates, and shares the deep sorrow of the entire Congolese people.

This dastardly murder of the distinguished leaders of the Congolese people is a result of the policy initiated by the colonizers from the very moment that the independence of the Congo was proclaimed. Even in fetters, the true leaders of the Congolese people, headed by Patrice Lumumba, the national hero of the Congolese people, obviously constituted a threat to the colonizers and an obstacle to the realization of their plans to impose a new colonial servitude upon the young African republic. The fears expressed by the representatives of the socialist countries and of many other peace-loving countries, and the warnings they repeatedly addressed to the Security Council and the General Assembly that an assault on the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo and his associates was being planned by the Belgian colonizers and their puppets have tragically been proved justified. It was only through pressure on the part of the imperialist and colonialist States that these warnings were not heeded and that the necessary steps were not taken to render the traitorous Tshombe-Mobutu clique incapable of doing harm and to free the legally elected representatives of the Congolese people.

The unenviable role that the handful of traitors and renegades among the Congolese people have been made to play in order to carry out the sinister schemes of the Belgian colonizers and their allies cannot conceal the identity of those who are really responsible for the tragic events in the Congo.

It was only thanks to the help given them by all the colonialist forces, and above all by the aggressive North Atlantic Treaty, that the Belgian colonizers decided to embark on such an adventure in the Congo. The infamy of this cruel crime will be a stain not only upon the Belgian Government but also upon its allies and upon the aggressive North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

A particularly ungrateful and dishonourable role, that of lackeys of the colonialists, has been played by Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and by many of his agents in the Congo. There can now be no doubt that the highest executive organs of the United Nations, in direct defiance of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, have been placed wholly at the service of the sworn enemies of the Congolese people. These actions by the Secretary-General and by the United Nations Command in the Congo have dealt a crushing blow to the authority of the United Nations,

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one which has shaken it to its foundations. For what are the peoples of the world to think of an organization which was called upon by the legitimate Government of the Congo to put an end to the aggression of the Belgian colonialists, but whose Secretary-General has not only sided with the enemies of the Congolese people and undertaken measures contrary to its interests, but has deliberately made himself the protector of the murderers of those who called for United Nations aid? It is obvious that in these circumstances to maintain Dag Hammarskjold in the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations would be incompatible with the most elementary prerequisites for the future normal functioning of the United Nations. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has no confidence whatsoever in Dag Hammarskjold, considers that he can no longer occupy the office of Secretary-General, and declares that in future it will maintain no relations with him.

The acts of violence committed by the hirelings of the colonialists show that Tshombe's and Mobutu's gangs must be disarmed and disbanded and that the guilty must be punished severely for their crimes. Belgian troops and civilian personnel who are in the Congo, in whatever guise and under whatever label they may be there, must leave the country at once. The United Nations must resolutely condemn Belgium as an aggressor and apply the appropriate sanctions against it, as the Charter requires. The latest events in the Congo show that the United Nations mission has been a fiasco, thanks to the machinations of Dag Hammarskjold and of the United Nations Command in the Congo. In fact, the United Nations "operation" in the Congo, which Dag Hammarskjold represented as one of "non-intervention" in internal affairs, was transformed, on his initiative and at his orders, into one of protecting and organizing military conspiracies and exterminating the finest sons of the Congolese people, into the most flagrant intervention on behalf of the Belgian colonialists. For that reason, the Bulgarian Government demands that all United Nations troops should be withdrawn from the Congo as quickly as possible and that the Congolese people should be given the opportunity to decide its own destiny.

The Bulgarian people is convinced that the heroic struggle of the Congolese people for freedom and independence will be crowned with success, despite all the intrigues and crimes of the colonialists and their allies. This is not the first time that a reactionary regime has resorted to the physical destruction of the outstanding fighters for national freedom; but nothing can stop a people which is struggling for its independence.

In its struggle, the Congolese people is still led by the lawful Government headed by Mr. Antoine Gizenga, acting as Prime Minister. The Bulgarian Government declares that the People's Republic of Bulgaria will lend its full support and every possible assistance to the legitimate Government of the Congo in its efforts to restore the freedom, the independence, and the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Congo.

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