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REPORT DATED 2 MARCH 1961 TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM HIS
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CONGO ON UNITED NATIONS
PROTECTED AREAS

ANNEX I*

Message dated 19 February 1961 to the Stanleyville authorities
from the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Congo

1. I must direct your attention most urgently to the alarming information I have received, to the effect that certain Europeans in parts of the Kivu Province were manhandled, beaten and arbitrarily arrested by the ANC on receipt of the tragic news of the death of Mr. Lumumba and his two colleagues. Such acts of violence against innocent and defenceless persons are an offence against the most elementary feelings of justice and dignity. World public opinion will judge the authorities, whose responsibility it is to guarantee the well-being and decent treatment of citizens of all nationalities in their respective territories.
2. While noting with satisfaction that the authorities of Orientale Province, aware of their obligations, have so far succeeded in preventing any outbreak of violence, I must emphasize that continued vigilance must be maintained in this respect and that it is absolutely essential that persons of whatever nationality or political convictions should be given complete protection, particularly foreigners, who should be treated as guests in the country - unless they wish to leave, in which case they should be authorized to do so speedily and without difficulty.

* See also the message dated 19 January 1961 from the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Congo addressed to Mr. Gizenga, Mr. Manzikala and Mr. Lundula in Stanleyville and to Mr. Kashamura in Bukavu (S/4637 D), and also the message dated 23 January 1961 from the Secretary-General addressed through his Special Representative in the Congo to Mr. Gizenga in Stanleyville (S/4637 E).

3. It is likewise the responsibility of the authorities to make sure that no arbitrary arrests are made and that persons who are arrested or detained should be protected by the principles of respect for law and should be treated with humanity and justice; they should not under any pretext be subjected to reprisals in respect of events for which they have no responsibility whatever. In addressing this appeal to you, I wish to remind you that the eyes of the whole world are at present fixed on the Congo and its responsible authorities, whose actions will be judged according to the normal rules of conduct applied throughout the civilized world.

ANNEX II

Message dated 22 February 1961 to the Leopoldville authorities from
the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Congo

For several days we have been visited by residents of Stanleyville requesting United Nations assistance in returning to that city with their families. These persons, who include some members of Parliament from Orientale Province, cite the action taken by the United Nations in the case of Madame Lumumba and her household, and ask to be given similar assistance. We explain conscientiously to each of them that the placing of a United Nations aircraft at Madame Lumumba's disposal was a special measure motivated by the compassion which her distress aroused, as the Special Representative had the honour to inform the Head of State by letter dated 18 February 1961. We emphasize that it is primarily a matter for the Congolese authorities to ensure freedom of movement of persons and property in the territory of the Republic. We are the more anxious to be sparing in our assistance in view of the fact that the Head of State complained bitterly about the assistance we gave to Madame Lumumba, asserting that our officious compassion had prevented him from demonstrating his own.

Nevertheless, our visitors plead that they come to us after having explored all other avenues, and they inform us that they have made repeated requests to the authorities without success.

From the file which has been compiled, I should like to cite by way of examples only those cases involving persons whose sincerity and trustworthiness cannot a priori be doubted. These persons have submitted to us copies of letters sent in November and December to the Chief of Police and the Head of State, none of which has so far been answered. Some of them have given us detailed accounts of the way in which their wives were treated when they tried to board the boat with their children. According to these reports, the families in question were brutally driven off the boat and were molested by soldiers and police officers, who seized their tickets and identity documents and their children's education certificates. It is alleged that when the mothers went to request the return of these documents from the Chief of Police, they received a flat refusal from

Mr. Nendaka himself, who had solemnly assured one of my deputies that the Leopoldville authorities would never place and had never placed any obstacle in the way of the movement of Congolese nationals from any point in Congolese territory to another. I am thus obliged to ask you what steps you propose to take, not only to ensure that the past activities of the officials of the Ministry of the Interior should be brought into the open and dealt with as justice requires, but also to enable the families concerned to proceed with their travel plans. We should be glad to be able to refer the persons who come to us for transport back to the booking offices of the air or river transport companies with the assurance that they would not be refused on personal grounds (unless of course a warrant for their arrest had been issued in due form) and that there would be no risk of their being maltreated for making such a request. It is the absence of this assurance which, as matters stand, compels us to interest ourselves in the requests made to us, concerned as we are with all matters pertaining to human rights and fundamental liberties.
